



Isle of Wedmore Good Neighbours Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

Isle of Wedmore Good Neighbours is committed to ensuring that vulnerable people who use our services are not abused and that working practices minimise the risk of such abuse and any instances of possible abuse are identified and reported.

Definition

Vulnerable adults are people who are over 18 years of age and are getting or may need help and services to live in the community. Vulnerable adults may be unable to take care of themselves and unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation by other people. Abuse can include: physical, financial, material, sexual, psychological, discriminatory, emotional abuse and neglect. Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and can be perpetuated by anyone.

Rights & Responsibilities

Responsibilities of Isle of Wedmore Good Neighbours:

- To ensure helpers/volunteers are aware of vulnerable adult's need for protection
- To notify the appropriate agencies if abuse is identified or suspected
- To support and where possible secure the safety of individuals and ensure that all referrals to services have full information in relation to identified risk and vulnerability
- To DBS check helpers/volunteers who have access to or work with Vulnerable Adults
- To appoint a Safeguarding Lead to coordinate training, to review & update this policy when necessary and to liaise with appropriate authorities if necessary.
- Deputy Safeguarding lead appointed when necessary.
- To monitor clients and volunteers when ongoing support is being provided, to check the relationship and support remains appropriate for both
- To follow Somerset Safeguarding Adults Multi-Agency policy

Responsibilities of Volunteers:

- To declare any existing or subsequent convictions.
- To be familiar with this Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults policy
- To undertake Safeguarding Awareness training on induction and annually thereafter

- To renew their DBS status annually using the Update Service - on the anniversary of their initial check. (An email will be sent by the Update Service)
- To give permission for a check every 3 years whether there has been a change to their DBS "status". This check necessitates the DBS Certificate Number to be given to the checker (at present Johnny Torrens-Spence, Chair)
- To take appropriate action in line with the policy of **Isle of Weymouth Good Neighbours**
- To contact as soon as possible the Safeguarding Lead if suspicions are raised about any potential or actual safeguarding issue.
- If the Safeguarding Lead is unavailable to contact the Duty Coordinator or Committee Member if suspicions are raised about any potential or actual safeguarding issue.

Support for those who report abuse

All those making a complaint or allegation or expressing concern should be reassured that:

- They will be taken seriously
- Their comments will usually be treated confidentially, but their concerns may be shared with the appropriate authorities if they or others are at significant risk

The Vulnerable Adult has the right:

- To be made aware of this policy
- To have alleged incidents recognised and taken seriously
- To receive fair and respectful treatment throughout
- To be involved in any process as appropriate
- To receive information about the outcome

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Chair's signature: Johnny Torrens-Spence



Date: 7th May 2026

Next Review due: May 2027