

## SAFEGUARDING

### STATEMENT

GCDCS do not provide specific services for children, we recognize however, that children may be present at our events on occasions but that they will be accompanied and supervised by a responsible adult already known to them. We will never act in *loco parentis*. Similarly, GCDCS does not offer services for vulnerable adults, but we are aware that some of our members are in the older age group and / or have health issues and that we have a duty of care to ensure that our activities are safe and that venues we select are accessible for all people, wherever possible.

As a charity, it is important for GCDCS to be able to publicise its events in print and on-line. This means that **photographs will often be taken by members of the GCDCS committee or others acting on behalf of the committee**. Where photos are likely to be taken, notification will be made to that effect. Should anyone not wish to be included in photographs, they will have the right to say so and GCDCS will comply with their wishes. It should be noted that others not acting directly under the instruction of GCDCS may also be taking photos and that GCDCS cannot take any responsibility for such photos.

### GCDCS aims to:

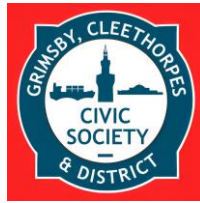
- foster a culture of mutual respect in everything we do
- ensure that anyone who engages with us (as a volunteer, employee, member, guest or other stakeholder), is not put in a position of risk regarding perceived or actual safeguarding breach
- address valid concerns to the best of our endeavours

### GCDCS commits to:

- ensuring the safety of all volunteers and attendees to our events and activities
- expecting its volunteers, and anyone working with us, to accept responsibility for supporting this ethos and to work with us to bring it about in practice

### Reviews / dates:

24.10.2024 *updated*



**Safeguarding is the practice of protecting people's health, well-being, and human rights, and ensuring they are free from abuse, neglect, and harm. It is a collective responsibility for everyone who works with children, young people, and vulnerable adults.**

**Abuse and harm are damaging acts and behaviours which include:**

<i>Physical</i>	<i>sexual</i>	<i>emotional</i>	<i>psychological</i>
<i>Neglect</i>	<i>radicalisation</i>	<i>discriminatory</i>	<i>financial</i>

**Considerations as outlined in <https://www.ncvo.org.uk/>**

### **Who is most at risk?**

Anyone can be at risk of abuse. People are at risk at different times and in different situations.

### **Children and young people**

All organisations and individuals have a responsibility to safeguard children. A child is anyone under the age of 18.

### **Adults at risk**

Any adult may experience abuse or harm. However, certain people are considered to be at greater risk so are given more protection by law.

An adult at risk is anyone aged 18 or over who:

- has needs for care and or support
- as a result of care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from abuse
- is currently experiencing or is at risk of abuse.

Adults at risk may:

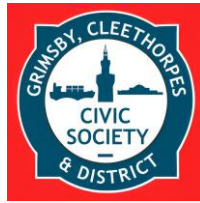
- have a mental or physical illness
- have a learning disability
- have addiction problems
- be frail.

Whether an adult is at risk or not is something which changes with their circumstances – it's not fixed.

- *Are you concerned that an adult is at risk of, or is experiencing abuse or neglect?*
- *What types of abuse or neglect are you concerned about?*
- *Have you had a conversation with the adult about concerns?*
- *Have you sought the views and wished of the adult? (do they want your concerns raised officially?)*
- *Are there immediate risks to the adult and to others including children?*
- *Have you discussed and agreed next steps with the adult?*
- *Have you provided advice, information or signposted the adult?*

### **Your staff or volunteers**

Protecting your staff and volunteers is not necessarily safeguarding – but you do have a duty to keep them safe. This means paying attention to the particular types of harm that can develop within an organisation.



### Digital safeguarding

Safeguarding matters in everything you do digitally, from the impact of something you write online to how you store data. You need to consider safeguarding when you design and deliver digital services whether on your own platforms (such as your website or any apps) and when using other platforms (such as social media sites). You also need to consider how people who use your digital technology are kept safe from exposure to harm and do not use your technology to harm others.

- [DigiSafe](#) helps you build safeguarding measures into the design and delivery of your digital services.
- If you work with children, NSPCC Learning has [specific guidance on using social media safely with children and young people](#).

### Empowerment and self-determination

Everyone has the right to make decisions for themselves. When you're safeguarding adults, you must understand this right. Otherwise, you can accidentally cause a different kind of harm by removing a person's freedom of choice.

### Guides from other organisations

- To learn more about child abuse, use NSPCC Learning's [definition and signs of child abuse](#).
- To learn more about how harm and abuse affects adults, use the Ann Craft Trust's clickable list of [14 types of harm](#).
- For more guidance on decision making with adults at risk, start with the Ann Craft Trust's [mental capacity, self determination and unwise decisions page](#).
- Find guidance on why you should act to keep everyone safe from sexual harassment with the Citizens Advice [explanation of sexual harassment](#).

## 'Section 11'

*Safe systems and processes that need to be in place to providing appropriate training and knowledge of staff and having up to date policies and procedures in place are outlined in:*

- Section 11 of the **Children Act (2004)** *places duties on a range of organisations*, agencies and individuals to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to *the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children*.
- The **Care Act (2014)** requires Local Authorities to set up Local Safeguarding Boards, the objective of which is *to help and protect adults at risk of or experiencing neglect and / or abuse*, by coordinating and ensuring the effectiveness of what each of its members does.

### Raising a safeguarding concern

- You can ask someone trusted to help you report the concern.
- REPORT via <https://safernel.co.uk/>