

GCCG Policy for the Protection of Children and Adults at Risk

The GCCG believes everyone has the right to be safe and enjoy their involvement in its activities. It is committed to supporting everyone involved to accept their responsibility to help children and vulnerable adults enjoy their participation in events and safeguard them from harm or abuse.

Policy Statement:

- The welfare of the child or adult at risk is paramount
- All children and adults at risk have the right to protection from harm
- All allegations will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly, fairly and appropriately

Scope: All GCCG activities where children or adults at risk may be present or referenced

Definitions

- Children are defined as under the age of 18 years although members may be 16 or 17
- Child Protection is the specific aspect of safeguarding that protects children from harm or abuse or risk of harm or abuse, and includes prevention activities
- An adult at risk lacks the capacity to make decisions for themselves, whether by disability or circumstances and may need care and support

How to react to concerns about the welfare and safety of children or adults at risk

Safeguarding is a responsibility on all members to respond to any concern they, or others may have about a child or adult at risk. There are four broad categories of abuse:

- Neglect- where physical and psychological needs consistently fail to be met
- physical abuse -an act of deliberate harm
- sexual abuse – when a person is forced to take part in a sexual act against their will
- emotional abuse -bullying or aggression with the intention of hurting a person

Events: The GCCG expects under 16s and adults at risk to be accompanied and supervised by a member. Members should be particularly vigilant in these circumstances to reduce risk around children under 16 not under their care, for instance to avoid being alone with a child in a car.

Reporting Concerns : Indicators of abuse should always be taken seriously and concerns reported:

- At an event, to the Area Organiser or local organiser who will in turn contact the GCCG's Safeguarding Officer for advice. The Chair should also be alerted. If the matter cannot be immediately resolved it may be necessary to report to the police or statutory services.
- Once the matter has been concluded (and this can take some time and may not always be known) the Committee will decide whether any further action is necessary.
- The General Secretary is designated as the GCCG Safeguarding Officer.

The event organiser should submit a report to the Safeguarding Officer who will keep a record of all such reports.

Photography : There is no law against taking photographs or videos including children but these should not be shared publicly including social media without the permission of the parent or carer.

Monitoring: The policy will be reviewed after a year and then every three years, or after changes in legislation or government guidance. The Safeguarding Officer will report regularly to the Committee.