

VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

The Northern Ireland Boys' Brigade



● POLICY STATEMENT

BBNI is committed to practice which promotes the welfare of adults at risk and safeguards them from harm. This policy aims to create a safe environment for all adults in our organisation.

● WHO IS A VULNERABLE ADULT?

The term is used to describe an adult, over 18, who is at risk of harm because of their personal characteristics such as age or disability or life circumstances. Some adults may become vulnerable for a limited time, following a medical procedure or accident. Vulnerable adults often depend on others for care.

● LEGAL CONTEXT

The main legislation relating to safeguarding vulnerable adults in Northern Ireland includes:

The Human Rights Act 1998

Protection of Children & Vulnerable Adults (NI) Order 2003

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (NI) Order 2007

● TYPES OF ADULT ABUSE

Adult abuse can take a number of forms including physical, sexual, emotional, financial abuse; neglect or exploitation. Abuse could occur from parents, carers, partners, friends, family, neighbours, strangers or adults in a position of trust.

Victims may be afraid to raise a complaint or unsure of who they can trust. There may be some situations where victims are unaware that they are being abused or have difficulty in communicating this to others.

● RECRUITMENT

New leaders, who will be working with vulnerable adults in a regulated position, should complete the BBNI appointment process which includes an AccessNI check.

● REPORTING CONCERNS ABOUT YOURSELF

If you are experiencing harm please ask for help. Talk to the company captain or, if you prefer, the chaplain.

If you are in immediate danger or need medical help please contact emergency services 999.

● REPORTING CONCERNS ABOUT OTHERS

If you suspect adult abuse it must be reported, as soon as possible. Inform your captain, chaplain or Church Safeguarding Person according to the policy of the church. In an emergency, please contact PSNI immediately.

If the vulnerable adult needs medical attention call an ambulance on 999.

Record your concerns and the report made.

Do not start to investigate.

If it will not put them at further risk, discuss your concerns with the adult and ask them what they would like to happen next.

Do not confront the person thought to be causing the harm.

● USEFUL CONTACT NUMBERS

Gateway Service

Vulnerable Adults: Adult Safeguarding Team

TRUST	CONTACT NUMBER
South Eastern Trust	028 9250 1227
Belfast Trust	028 9504 1744
Western Trust	028 7161 1366
Southern Trust	028 3741 2334 adultsafeguard.team@southerntrust.com
Northern Trust	0300 1234 333

PSNI

Non emergency 101
Emergency number 999

● REVIEW

This policy was last reviewed: Aug 2023