

SAFEGUARDING



What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding is an important, shared priority of all Poppyscotland staff and volunteers. It is about protecting young people and protected adults. Every child, young person and vulnerable adult has a right to feel safe and protected from any situation or practice which may result in harm. These people may be at risk of abuse or neglect due to the actions (or lack of action) of another person. In these cases, it is vital we work together to identify people at risk and put steps in place to help prevent abuse or neglect.

What is my role?

At Poppyscotland, we need your help to ensure that we provide an environment where all children and adults at risk, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious or other belief and sexual orientation or identity are kept safe from harm, abuse and neglect while they are involved with the organisation. Together, we will take every reasonable precaution to minimise such risks and will ensure their welfare is paramount.

We are committed to openness and honesty. We have a zero-tolerance approach to abuse and all actual and alleged abuse must be reported. All allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and acted upon, designated as formal concerns that are escalated to senior management. If we suspect abuse or neglect, we have a duty to report it.

What should I do if I suspect a Safeguarding issue?

You might suspect abuse if you see someone behaving in an inappropriate way. Alternatively, a member of staff, a family member, friend or member of the public might tell you they are concerned about, or suspicious of, abuse to an individual. An individual might communicate their own concerns to you about abuse or their safety.

If you feel any person is in danger of abuse, you should contact the police immediately. You also have a obligation to report to the police if you believe a criminal act has occurred. Should a volunteer, member of the public or member of staff disclose abuse or neglect to you, or you suspect the abuse or neglect of a young person or vulnerable adult, you should report this to your Poppy Appeal Organiser at your earliest opportunity. The matter will then be escalated to the Poppyscotland Safeguarding Officer.

How can I get more information?

Our full Safeguarding Policy is available at www.poppyscotland.org.uk/volunteer-guide, along with our volunteer's guide to **Staying safe**. This should be made available to all volunteers supporting you in your area.

Please get in touch if you have any questions around this guidance or if you have any concerns around the safety, health or wellbeing of a child or vulnerable adult.