

Worcestershire Bowling Association

Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy

The County affiliates to Bowls England and recognises their policies as set in out in the “Safeguarding Bowls Guidelines”.

Policy Aims

- The purpose of this policy is to outline the duty and responsibility of Officers/Officials/Volunteers working on behalf of the *County* in relation to Safeguarding Adults at risk.
- All adults have the right to be safe from harm and must be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Objectives

- Everyone who participates in bowls is entitled to do so in a safe and enjoyable environment.
- The County is committed to helping everyone in bowls accept their responsibility to safeguard adults at risk, from harm and abuse.
- All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.
- Officers, Officials and Volunteers working with adults at risk in bowls have a responsibility to report concerns to their County Safeguarding Officers.

Definition of an Adult at Risk?

- **Adult at Risk** is a person aged 18 or over who is in need of care and support regardless of whether they are receiving them, and because of those needs are unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect.

Types of Abuse taken from the Care Act 2014

Abuse takes many different forms and come under the auspices of the Care Act 2014. There are also forms of abuse that do not included under this Act.

All these can be referenced on the Bowls England website under Safeguarding.

Responsibilities and Communication

- The County's Safeguarding Policy will be available to all members, parents, officials, volunteers and participants. It is important that adults at risk are protected from abuse. All complaints, allegations or suspicions must be taken seriously with the County Safeguarding Officers passing information to the appropriate Bowls England Safeguarding Officer and informing the appropriate County staff where relevant.
- The County has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including referring any appropriate disciplinary action to Bowls England as appropriate.

The Role of Key Individual Agencies

- **Adult Social Services** - The Department of Health's recent 'No secrets' guidance document requires that authorities develop a local framework within which all responsible agencies work together to ensure a coherent policy for the protection of vulnerable adults at risk of abuse.

All local authorities have a Safeguarding Adults Board, which oversees multi-agency work aimed at protecting and safeguarding vulnerable adults. It is normal practice for the board to comprise of people from partner organisations who have the ability to influence decision making and resource allocation within their organisation.

- **The Police** - The Police play a vital role in Safeguarding Adults with cases involving alleged criminal acts. It becomes the responsibility of the police to investigate allegations of crime by preserving and gathering evidence. Where a crime is identified, the police will be the lead agency and they will direct investigations in line with legal and other procedural protocols.

Legal Framework

- The Care Act 2014 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/introduction/enacted> sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Each Local Authority must have a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), in much the same way of Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCB). They must lead a multi-agency system that seeks to prevent abuse and neglect and stop it quickly when it happens which includes the NHS, police and Social Care. The Safeguarding Adults Boards (SAB) must meet regularly, develop shared safeguarding plans and publish an annual review of progress. They will carry out Safeguarding Adults Reviews in some circumstances relating to safeguarding failures. The Act also introduces a responsibility for Local Authorities to make enquiries and take any necessary action if an adult with care and support needs could be at risk, even if that adult isn't receiving local authority care and support.
- The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims (Amendment) Act 2012
- The Equality Act 2010
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- The Data Protection Act 2018

Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed one year after being introduced and then every three years or in response to significant new legislation by the Management Committee and amended as appropriate. Guidance from Bowls England will be sought as part of the review process.
- The policy will be monitored in partnership with the Bowls National Governing Bodies and Bowls Development Alliance procedures.