

CHILDREN & VULNERABLE ADULTS PROTECTION POLICY

The aim of this policy is ensure children and vulnerable adults are treated by Rother Fed volunteers and employees, in a way which is free from abuse or significant harm.

A vulnerable adult is any person aged 18 or over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of:

- mental or other disability, age or illness and
- who is or may be unable to take care of him/herself or
- unable to protect him/herself from significant or serious exploitation

A child is anyone up to and including the age of 18. Extensions of this age exist for children who are disabled and for those in local authority care settings.

It is the responsibility of the Executive Committee delegated to the Manager, to ensure that relevant staff receive training on Child and Adult Protection, and ensure Criminal Record Checks are undertaken where necessary.

It is the policy of Rother Fed that no-one shall work or volunteer to work in an environment where they may come into contact with children or vulnerable adults within or on behalf of Rother Fed who:

- Has been convicted of or has received a formal police caution concerning an offence against children or vulnerable adults.
- Has been convicted of or has received a formal police caution concerning sexual offences.

Training on Child and Adult Protection

Training will be given to all staff and volunteers who work in a community setting.

Criminal Record Checks

The nature of Rother Fed's work with voluntary and community groups, mean there is the potential for all staff to come into contact with vulnerable adults and children. Therefore it is the policy of Rother Fed for all employees to have a criminal record check from the Criminal Records Bureau. All volunteers, including board members, who may come into contact with vulnerable adults and children will also have a criminal record check.

No employee or volunteer shall knowingly work directly with children or vulnerable adults until approval is given by their line manager following a criminal record check. Any employee who has been convicted of or has received a formal police caution concerning an offence against children or vulnerable adults or been convicted of or has received a formal police caution concerning a sexual offence, will be subject to dismissal.

Staff are assured that information obtained from the Criminal Records Bureau will be treated in absolute confidence.

Response to allegations or suspicions of abuse

There will be one named staff member who will be specifically trained to oversee this policy. Staff should report immediately any suspicions of abuse by Rother Fed volunteers, employees or by any member of the public, to this named person or, in their absence, to the Rother Fed Manager. Advice should then be sought from the adult protection team at Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council or the police. If the child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger staff should contact the emergency services in the first instance.

Types of abuse

In the context of this policy abuse can be: Physical, emotional, sexual, legal/financial, neglect, discriminatory, institutional.

Date Policy adopted: November 2009

Signed:
Chair

Policy No: