

SAFEGUARDING POLICY



Updated 29 July 2025

Trustees' Charity Law duties in Relation to Safeguarding are very clear:

Charity trustees are responsible for ensuring that those benefiting from, or working with, their charity are not harmed in any way through contact with it. They have a legal duty to act prudently and this means that they must take all reasonable steps within their powers to ensure that this does not happen.

The Knitting & Crochet Guild acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.

A broad definition of abuse is:

Abuse may be a single act or repeated physical, verbal or psychological acts that violate an individual's human and civil rights.¹

The policy applies to everyone interacting with the Knitting & Crochet Guild, and demonstrates the commitment of the Guild to the safety of any vulnerable adults and children who interact with it.

This policy provides members – particularly Board members and other volunteers in positions of responsibility – with guidance on working to prevent abuse and what to do in the event of becoming aware of abuse.

This Policy assists the Guild to:

- promote good practice and work in a way that can prevent harm, abuse and coercion occurring,
- ensure that any allegations or suspicions of abuse are dealt with appropriately, and
- to stop that abuse occurring.

Definitions

Children are young people under 18 years of age.

Vulnerable adults are people who:

- are aged 18 or over

¹ <https://www.local.gov.uk/definition-harassment-abuse-and-intimidation#:~:text=The%20Home%20Office%20and%20the,individual's%20human%20and%20civil%20rights>



- who have care or support needs (for example, people who are frail, have a learning or physical disability or long-term illness, or mental health condition)
- who are or may be unable to take care of themselves, or are unable to protect themselves against significant harm, abuse or exploitation.

Policy

Young people under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent, guardian or person nominated by the parent or guardian at all times.

If the Guild is notified of allegations or suspicions of abuse, information will be passed to the relevant authorities as they would be by any concerned individual.

Vulnerable adults should be encouraged to have an appropriate adult accompanying them.

To implement the policy the Knitting & Crochet Guild will:

- provide a safe environment for all interacting with the Guild
- provide a point of contact for our volunteers to better understand their responsibilities (a named Safeguarding Representative, contactable using the email address safeguarding@kcguild.org.uk)
- make this policy and associated procedure available to all members of the Knitting & Crochet Guild
- endeavour to keep up to date with national developments relating to preventing abuse and welfare of adults
- ensure that the named Safeguarding Representative understands the responsibility to refer incidents of abuse to the relevant statutory agencies (police or appropriate social services department)

For more information, see the Charity Commission website:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-for-charities-and-trustees>