

# **WEARDALE FLOWER AND GARDEN CLUB**

## **SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Safeguarding is everyone's concern and carries a moral obligation of care to any adult or child who may be at risk of harm. This statement relates to adults only, and Weardale Flower and Garden Club must show an awareness and understanding of the following:

- It is acknowledged that significant numbers of vulnerable and elderly adults are abused, and everyone has an equal right to protection from abuse, and to be kept safe from harm.
- The membership is made up of individuals, rather than a single group, and is conscious of their differing needs.
- Some adults may be additionally vulnerable because of previous experience/s, their level of dependency, communication needs or other issues.

Communities as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect.

Durham Safeguarding Adults Partnership is made up of a range of public authorities including Council, Police and Health Services personnel, who share a duty to keep adults in County Durham safe from abuse, harm and neglect.

### **2. KEY PRINCIPLES OF ADULT SAFEGUARDING**

- Empowerment: People are being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
- Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.
- Proportionality: Taking the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
- Protection: Support and representation for those in greatest need.
- Partnership: Communities and organisations working with professional services.

### **3. CATEGORIES OF ABUSE**

There are 10 definitions of the types of harm that adults may experience. These are:

Physical, Sexual, Psychological/emotional/mental, Financial and material, Neglect, Discriminatory, Organisational, Modern-day slavery, Domestic violence, and Self neglect.

### **4. UNDERTAKING**

The Club undertakes to:

- Uphold a zero-tolerance approach to abuse of any kind.
- Provide a safe, social environment for members.
- Promote the welfare of members.
- Work with relevant agencies where appropriate.

## **5. RESPONDING TO, RECORDING AND REPORTING ALLEGATIONS OF ABUSE**

There are many signs and indications that may suggest someone is experiencing abuse or neglect, although there may be other explanations for these. However, signs and indications should not be ignored if they are apparent. Any response must be sensitive, appropriate and proportionate.

### **5.1 Responding**

If a member self discloses a matter that constitutes a potential or alleged situation of abuse, the response should be:

- To ensure the person involved feels listened to and supported, and discussions are held in an appropriate environment.
- To not promise to keep the information confidential between you and them.
- To not appear shocked, horrified, disgusted or angry.
- To not comment or be judgmental.
- To not confront the alleged abuser.
- For urgent concerns, to consider the need to contact emergency services.
- To listen carefully and stay calm to obtain sufficient facts to understand what is being alleged.

### **5.2 Recording**

A full and accurate record should be made detailing the nature of the allegation. All records are strictly confidential.

### **5.3 Reporting**

If a person is in immediate danger, call the Police on 999 to report an “adult with needs for care and support”.

In non-urgent situations, call Social Care Direct on 03000 26 79 79. This line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. A trained officer will listen carefully, give advice, and make a safeguarding referral if necessary. You can remain anonymous.

*SIGNED:*

*Chair CHRISTINE ROBINSON*

*DATE: MARCH 2026*

*v.1, Feb 2026*