

# West End Bowls Club – Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

West End Bowls Club (WEBC) is affiliated to Bowls England and adheres to the policies set in out in the “Safeguarding Bowls Guidelines”, which are issued by the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA).

## 1. Policy Statement

The outlines the duty and responsibility of all members in relation to Safeguarding Adults at risk. Everyone has the right to be safe from harm and to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Everyone who participates in bowls is entitled to do so in a safe and enjoyable environment.

WEBC is committed to helping everyone in bowls accept their responsibility to safeguard adults at risk of harm and abuse. All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice are taken seriously and given a swift and appropriate response.

Everyone in the club has a responsibility to report concerns to a Club Welfare Officer.

## 2. Definition of an Adult at Risk

An Adult (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 or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation’.

This could include people with learning disabilities, mental health problems, older people and people with a physical disability or impairment. It may also include victims of domestic abuse, hate crime and anti- social behaviour. The person’s need for additional support to protect themselves may be increased when complicated by additional factors, such as, physical frailty or chronic illness, sensory impairment, challenging behaviour, drug or alcohol problems, social or emotional problems, poverty or homelessness.

## 3. Types of Abuse

- Physical abuse - includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.
- Sexual abuse - includes rape, sexual assault or sexual acts to which the vulnerable adult has not consented, or could not consent or was pressured into consenting.
- Psychological abuse - includes emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.
- Financial or material abuse - includes theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

- Neglect and acts of omission - includes ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of necessities, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- Discriminatory abuse - includes race, sex, culture, religion, politics, that is based on a person's disability, age or sexuality and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment, hate crime.
- Institutional abuse - Institutional abuse although not a separate category of abuse in itself, requires specific mention simply to highlight that adults placed in any kind of care home or day care establishment are potentially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. This can be especially so when care standards and practices fall below an acceptable level.
- Multiple forms of abuse - Multiple forms of abuse may occur in an ongoing relationship or an abusive service setting to one person, or to more than one person at a time, making it important to look beyond single incidents or breaches in standards, to underlying dynamics and patterns of harm.

Any or all of these types of abuse may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent and targeting of adults at risk, negligence or ignorance.

#### **4. Responsibilities and Communication**

- WEBC's Safeguarding Policy is available to all members and participants.
- All complaints, allegations or suspicions will be taken seriously. Where relevant the Club Welfare Officers pass information to the Bowls England Designated Safeguarding Officer and inform appropriate club members and the committee as necessary.
- The Policy will be amended as appropriate according to guidance from Bowls England.