

Vulnerable Adults Protection Statement for Edgmond Wildlife Group

Vulnerable adult protection representatives: Jonathan Lloyd, Paula Doherty and Allan Wilson

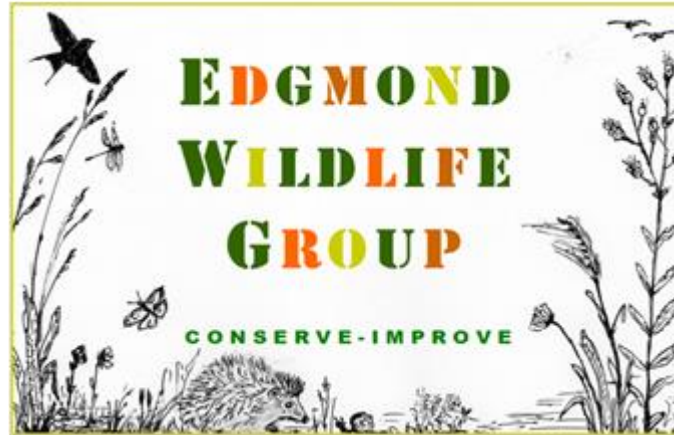
Edgmond Wildlife Group is committed to ensuring the protection of vulnerable adults through the development and implementation of effective policies and best practice. Committee members, members and volunteers recognise and accept the responsibility to develop and raise awareness of the issues involved in working with vulnerable adults.”

Objectives

1. To provide an environment in which vulnerable adults feel safe and valued
2. To exercise a *Duty of Care* and ensure that all staff and volunteers working with vulnerable adults are carefully selected, understand and accept responsibility for the safety of vulnerable adults in our care.
3. To enable committee members, members and volunteers, user group members and customers to feel confident in reporting any issues on vulnerable adult protection.
4. To work with, share information with and inform committee members, volunteers and colleagues on all issues of vulnerable adult protection and its implementation.
5. To review and update this policy and practice on a regular basis.
6. To regularly review the provision, activities / services of Edgmond Wildlife Group and develop and implement other relevant policies and procedures that ensure the safeguarding of adults in our care.

A vulnerable adult protection statement makes it clear to all what is required in relation to the protection of vulnerable adults.

The Vulnerable Adult Protection Representative must ensure that all committee members, members and volunteers have read and understood this policy.



Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy for Edgmond Wildlife Group

Aim of Policy

The aim of this policy is to ensure the safety of vulnerable adults by outlining clear procedures and ensuring that committee members, members and volunteers are clear about their responsibilities.

Responsibilities

All committee members, members and volunteers have a responsibility to be aware of this policy and to report any suspicions that they might have concerning adult abuse.

Definition

The broad definition of a vulnerable adult is a person:

'Who is eighteen years of age or over, and who 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 against significant harm or exploitation.'

(*'Who Decides'*:1997, Lord Chancellor's department)

This **may** include a person who:

- Is elderly and frail
- Has a mental illness including dementia
- Has a physical or sensory disability
- Has a learning disability
- Has a severe physical illness
- Is a substance misuser
- Is homeless

What is abuse?

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons. It can take a number of forms:

- **Physical abuse** e.g. hitting, pushing, shaking, inappropriate restraint, force-feeding, forcible administration of medication, neglect or abandonment
- **Sexual abuse** e.g. involvement in any sexual activity against his/her will, exposure to pornography, voyeurism and exhibitionism

- **Emotional/psychological abuse** e.g. intimidation or humiliation
- **Financial or material abuse** e.g. theft, misuse, exploitation or exerting improper pressure to sign over money from pensions or savings, exploitation of a person's assets e.g. unauthorised use of a car; etc.
- **Neglect or acts of omission** e.g. being left in wet or soiled clothing, or malnutrition
- **Discriminatory abuse** e.g. racial, sexual or religious harassment
- **Organisational or institutional** e.g. failure to provide a choice of meals or failure to ensure privacy or dignity, not offering choice or promoting independence etc.
- **Domestic violence** can include any indicators of abuse relating to physical, psychological, sexual, financial and emotional. It includes any incident or pattern or incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or who have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality
- **Modern slavery** e.g. Human trafficking, Forced labour, Domestic servitude, Sexual exploitation, such as escort work, prostitution and pornography, and debt bondage
- **Self-neglect** e.g. lack of self-care where it threatens personal health and safety, neglecting to care for a person's health, hygiene or surroundings etc.

Further details on the types and signs of abuse can be found on the [Telford and Wrekin Adult Safeguarding Board](#) website

Rights of Vulnerable Adults

Vulnerable adults have the right to:

- be made aware of this policy
- have alleged incidents recognised and taken seriously
- receive fair and respectful treatment throughout
- be involved in any process as appropriate
- receive information about the outcome.

Code of Conduct

- 1) Make sure all the following have read and understand the Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy and Procedure to report vulnerable adult protection cases appropriately: committee members of the Edgmond Wildlife Group, members of the group, and volunteers working for Edgmond Wildlife Group.
- 2) Ensure that all committee members, members and volunteers who work with or have responsibility for, vulnerable adults are checked by the Data Barring Service (DBS) with an enhanced DBS check.
- 3) To ensure committee members, members and volunteers who work with or have responsibility for vulnerable adults are supervised during a designated probationary period with ongoing regular supervision opportunities.
- 4) Committee members, members and volunteers treat vulnerable adults with respect and sensitivity at all times.
- 5) Committee members, members and volunteers must ensure that the safety and dignity of those vulnerable adults in their care is maintained at all times.
- 6) It is the duty of committee members, members and volunteers to ensure that vulnerable adults in their care are aware that there are committee members, members and volunteers to help them with any worries and/or difficulties.
- 7) To exercise a "*Duty of Care*". If committee members or volunteers have concerns about the possible abuse of a vulnerable adult, or where a disclosure has been made, this must be reported as a *Duty of Care* responsibility.

Reporting

a) If you suspect that a vulnerable person is being abused or neglected, please report this via:

- **Family Connect** on **01952 385385** (Monday to Friday from 9am - 5pm)
- **Emergency Duty Team** on **01952 676500** (Monday to Sunday after 5pm)
- **West Mercia Police** on **0300 333 3000** or **101**

If it is a serious matter or an emergency, always ring 999.

b) The person making the report should inform the designated representatives who will keep a record of the incident for information on file to which designated representatives *only* have access.

c) If a committee member or volunteer member has been told about the allegation of abuse in confidence, they should attempt to gain the consent of the person to make a referral to another agency. However, the gaining of the consent is not essential in order for information to be passed on. Consideration needs to be given to:

- The scale of the abuse
- The risk of harm to others
- The capacity of the victim to understand the issues of abuse and consent

d) If there is any doubt about whether or not to report an issue to the relevant authorities then it should be reported.

e) In emergency situations (e.g. where there is the risk of occurrence or severe physical injury), where immediate action is needed to safeguard the health or safety of the individual or anyone else who may be at risk, the emergency services must be contacted.

It is important for committee members, members and volunteers to avoid making assumptions and discussing concerns indiscriminately.

Confidentiality, and respect for the vulnerable adult(s) involved, is of the utmost importance.

Recruitment and Training

Edgmond Wildlife Group will ensure that all committee members, members and volunteers whose roles include working with children and young people adults are carefully selected, are Enhanced DBS checked (please refer to Appendix A for further details about DBS checks), trained and supervised.

Ensure that committee member, members and volunteers who work with or have responsibility for, vulnerable adults undertake the 'Raising Awareness of Adult Safeguarding' training course provided by the [Telford & Wrekin Safeguarding Adults Board](#).

Further training and information thereafter should be advised via the [Telford and Wrekin Adult Safeguarding Board](#)

Committee members, members and volunteers will have a supervised probationary period of three months with regular supervision thereafter.

Monitoring

Edgmond Wildlife Group will review the effectiveness of this vulnerable adult policy on an annual basis (or more regularly if we identify any non-compliance or problem concerning adult protection issues). We will take remedial action if we discover non-compliance under this policy or barriers to its implementation.

Local Contacts

Contact the Family Connect and Adult Safeguarding Team - **01952 385385**

*If you have a concern that requires advice before action is taken out of 'normal working hours' then contact the Emergency Duty Team on **01952 676500**
Please note that the process for dealing with vulnerable adults is different to that of a child and you may not get an immediate response-but you will be contacted

Police 0300 3333 000

This policy was adopted by Edgmond Wildlife Group

Signed:.....**on behalf of the** Edgmond Wildlife Group

Print Name.....

Position..... **Date**.....