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## **Vulnerable Adults Policy Statement**

### **Safeguarding lead/Vulnerable Adults Protection Officer: Sue Relf**

Community Wise is run for the general benefit of all residents in the surrounding area and in particular:

- To serve the community and to promote community spirit
- To encourage and support family life
- To value individuals, identifying and responding to their needs

It does this by:

- Providing community facilities at low cost
- Actively encouraging the development of new groups as and when needs have been identified and opportunities arise
- Envisioning and supporting staff and volunteers
- Working in partnership with other agencies, in particular with Living Stones Community Church

Community Wise is responsible for ensuring the protection, safeguarding and welfare of all vulnerable adults who take part in activities managed directly by Community Wise on or off the premises. This applies to all children and young people, regardless of gender, disability, ethnicity, sexuality or religion. It is committed to value, listen to, relate effectively with and encourage their well-being, looking to their physical, mental, emotional and spiritual needs, and ensuring their protection from harm.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

We recognise that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and everyone may be regarded as vulnerable at some time in their lives. For the purpose of this policy we adopt the following definition:

A vulnerable person is defined as one who may be at risk and in need as a result of:

- Sensory or physical disability or impairment
- A learning disability
- A physical illness
- A mental illness, chronic or otherwise including dementia or an addiction to alcohol or drugs
- A reduction in physical, mental or emotional capacity, or who has for any reason become unable to protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation.

Community Wise is concerned that those who work in regular, face-to-face contact or who have responsibilities with vulnerable adults should be aware of the potential for misuse and abuse of power. Training in good practice and awareness of adult abuse and the proper recruitment of those who work with vulnerable adults is therefore essential.

## POLICY STATEMENT

- We commit ourselves to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and ensuring their well-being.
- It is the responsibility of each one of us to prevent the physical, emotional, sexual, financial or spiritual abuse of vulnerable adults, and to report any abuse that we discover or suspect and that the correct procedures are sensitively followed at all times. Any concerns should be reported in the first instance to the Vulnerable Adults Protection Officer, Sue Relf.
- Personal contact or interaction with any vulnerable adult in our care through any social media site is not permitted.
- We undertake to exercise proper care in the appointment and selection of those who will work with vulnerable adults. This will include obtaining an enhanced DBS check and asking workers to complete our Voluntary Declaration Form.
- Community Wise is committed to supporting, resourcing, training and reviewing those who undertake this work.
- Community Wise, in partnership with Living Stones Community Church, adopts the guidelines of Thirtyone eight where there is any need for further clarity.
- Disciplinary procedures will be followed by any staff member or volunteer not adhering to these guidelines.
- Whistle-blowers and any others who raise a concern will be treated with confidentiality and protection.
- Each person who works with vulnerable adults will agree to abide by these recommendations and guidelines.

All staff and volunteers working with vulnerable adults will be asked to commit to adhering to the policies and procedures outlined in this document and given a hard copy for their reference.

All staff and volunteers working with vulnerable adults will be required to complete the safeguarding online training delivered by Thirtyone eight via Living Stones Community Church.

The Vulnerable Adults Protection Officer will be required to participate in Safeguarding Webinar training conducted by Thirtyone eight via Living Stones Community Church.

This policy is available on our website: <https://communitywise.org.uk> and will be reviewed by the Trustees every two years.

**Community Wise Supporting Documents:**

- Equal Opportunities Policy
  - Christian Basis
  - Volunteers Policy
  - Health and Safety Policy
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**Community Wise Vulnerable Adults Policy Statement:**

**Personal Commitment:**

I have read and understood the above and will abide by this commitment:

NAME (in capitals) .....

SIGNATURE .....

DATE .....