Stobswell Forum

Vulnerable Adults and Children's Protection policy

The Stobswell Forum has a duty as a responsible organisation to take care of children and adults at risk when undertaking it's normal activities.

The Policy states the Stobswell Forum's position on preventing and reducing harm to children and adults at risk when they are in contact with Stobswell Forum volunteers.

The policy aims to:

- Promote and prioritise the safety and wellbeing of children and adults at risk;
- Raise awareness that everyone who comes into contact with children/adults at risk, have a role to play. In order to fulfil this responsibility effectively, all volunteers should make sure their approach is centred around the vulnerable individual. This means that they should consider, at all times, what is in the best interests of the child and/or the adult at risk.
- Provide assurance to parents, carers and other parties that the Stobswell Forum takes reasonable steps to manage risks and keep children and adults at risk safe;
- Ensure that everyone understands their roles and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and is provided with the necessary information, training and support on safeguarding matters;
- Put in place proportionate safeguards to prevent the volunteering of individuals who potentially could work with children and/or adults at risk where they are deemed by the Stobswell Forum to pose an unacceptable risk to vulnerable groups;
- Ensure that appropriate action is taken in the event of any allegations or suspicions regarding harm to children or adults at risk arising from contact with Stobswell Forum volunteers, where ever the harm has taken place.

This policy requires that any suspicions and allegations involving harm to children and/or adults at risk are referred to the designated safeguarding lead, or their deputy (normally the Stobswell Forum's Chair and Vice Chair) to determine what action, if any, must be taken.

This will enable each situation to be investigated thoroughly, whilst treating the parties involved fairly and sensitively. It will also ensure that appropriate steps are taken as a result of any investigations, which may include contacting the police, social services and/or fulfilling the legal duty to refer information to OSCR The Scottish Charities Regulator as required.

The procedure for managing suspicions and allegations aims to strike a balance between the need to protect children and adults at risk from abuse and the need to protect volunteers from false or unfounded accusations. Any individual who raises a child protection concern will not be subject to any adverse or detrimental treatment.