

THE FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES OF NORTHERN IRELAND

ADULT SAFEGUARDING POLICY

The Federation of Women's Institutes of Northern Ireland (the Federation) is an organisation which encourages women to take a more effective part in the community through its network in Northern Ireland of Women's Institutes. The Federation and its Institutes organise a wide range of meetings and events throughout the year with the aim of providing an environment for women to meet socially, enjoy the wide range of activities on offer and work to improve not just their lives but those of their families and community.

This Adult Safeguarding Policy is designed to ensure that all members and other adults, including any vulnerable adults, attending its meetings and other activities are treated in an appropriate manner without fear or prejudice. Vulnerable adults may include people with learning disabilities, mental health problems, older people and people with a physical disability or impairment. It is important to include people whose condition, and subsequent vulnerability, fluctuates.

Aims

1. The aim of this policy is to outline the duty and responsibility of the Federation and the Women's Institutes in relation to safeguarding vulnerable adults attending meetings and activities or in the membership.
2. All WI members have the right to meet in a safe environment free from harm and prejudice.

Objectives

1. To ensure that potential risks are identified and appropriate action taken.
2. To ensure, wheelchair access and appropriate toilet facilities are available for members and visitors with mobility problems.
3. To ensure fire exits are suitable for adults with mobility problems.
4. To ensure that all members and visitors are treated with respect and without fear of prejudice.

Context

1. Carry out risk assessments of venues to identify presence of wheelchair access and toilet facilities.
2. A caring environment which respects all abilities, whether physical or mental, will be promoted.
3. Encourage vulnerable adults to participate in WI activities without exclusion

Role of meeting and activity organisers

1. Refer to the FWINI Handbook for guidance.
2. Carry out risk assessments.
3. Be aware of any members or visitors who may require assistance and ensure this is provided.
4. Be aware of any atmosphere which could be prejudicial to any members or visitors. If a situation of this type should arise, it should be reported, for a federation Event, to the appropriate Executive member, or for an Institute, its President, in the first instance. If there is no satisfactory resolution the matter should be reported to the General Secretary of the Federation for further investigation.

Training

Any training identified as necessary for safeguarding adults will be sourced.