

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL IN GREAT BRITAIN AND
IRELAND (Rotary GB & I)

SAFEGUARDING OF ADULTS AT RISK OF HARM
AND CHILDREN POLICY 2023/24

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Applicable to all clubs and districts in Rotary GB & I

Policy statement

Clubs and districts recognise that the services they provide are used by children and by adults who may be classed as at risk of harm* or may be vulnerable at certain times.

The clubs and districts have a duty to ensure the welfare of children and adults who may be at risk of harm. This duty involves reporting the risk to an appropriate agency and Rotary GB & I, and by promoting a safe environment within the organisation.

Clubs and districts believe that these groups must be safeguarded from all forms of abuse. Clubs recognise that they must, at all times, protect from the risk of abuse and identify and deal with specific instances of abuse if it occurs.

Clubs and districts will take every possible action to prevent abuse and to deal with it as promptly and effectively as possible if it occurs.

Aim of the policy

The central aim of Rotary GB & I's safeguarding policy is to inform all Rotarians of:

- Rotary GB & I's approach to the safeguarding
- ways in which the clubs and districts do this.
- the steps taken to avoid abuse taking place.
- the actions that will be taken to deal with abuse if it occurs.

Definition of abuse

Abuse may take any of the following forms:

- Emotional
- Discriminatory physical abuse.
- Financial or material abuse.
- Inhuman or degrading treatment psychological abuse.
- Inappropriate or excessive restraint Emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Psychological
- Sexual

Responsibility

The clubs and districts have a duty to report serious concerns relating to abuse to appropriate agencies including the police, social services and the district safeguarding officer as well as the Rotary GB & I Compliance Officer.

The clubs have a duty to ensure that Rotarians or others who may be supporting Rotary activities that include working with adults at risk of harm and children have been carefully interviewed and selected, adopt safe practices, have been appropriately trained and, where required, have had an enhanced DBS check.

The clubs will undertake enhanced DBS (or other state checking body) checks on all new and existing Rotarians as appropriate and will undertake regular education of its members to minimise any danger to adults at risk of harm or children posed by Rotarians.

Rotary GB & I will:

- Set out and inform Rotarians of the procedures for responding to suspicions or evidence of abuse.
- Incorporate material relevant to issues of abuse on the Rotary GB & I website.
- Maintain vigilance concerning the possibility of abuse from whatever source.
- Encourage a climate of openness which enables Rotarians to pass on concerns about behaviour that might be abusive.
- Produce and regularly revise policies and procedures to minimise the risk of abuse.
- Investigate any allegations of abuse quickly and thoroughly.
- Implement improvements to procedures if an investigation reveals deficiencies in the way in which Rotary GB & I operates.
- Collaborate with other relevant agencies in combating abuse and improving the protection of our service users.

Districts and clubs will:

Appoint a Rotarian as the district safeguarding officer and also a Rotarian to be the club safeguarding officer. These officers will have suitable experience, training and expertise. There are role descriptions in the Rotary GB& I Safeguarding manual which is available in the compliance section of the members area in the Rotary GB&I website:

[Safeguarding - Rotary GB&I Members Area \(rotarygbi.org\)](https://www.rotarygbi.org/members-area/safeguarding)

The district safeguarding officer will ensure that all club safeguarding officers within their district receive regular education to minimise any risks posed by Rotarians in their district.

The clubs expect its members to:

- Refrain from any abusive action.
- Report to the club anything they witness which is or might be abusive.
- Co-operate in any investigation into alleged abuse.

Rotarians should be aware of who they may turn to for advice if they become aware or suspect that abuse is occurring.

Failure by Rotarians to report incidents or suspicions of abuse may lead to disciplinary action and possibly legal action e.g. police prosecution.

Rotary GB & I
Compliance@rotarygbi.org