

# Policy For Protection of Children and Vulnerable Adults

## Policy Statement of Newport Photographic Club (NPC)

With grateful thanks to Age UK Hounslow, the original authors of this document.

Abuse is a single or repeated act intended to inflict harm on another person. Abuse happens to people of all ages and not everyone is able to protect themselves. Protecting those not able to protect themselves is a fundamental part of civilised society. NPC has a zero tolerance of abuse of any of its members, their families and friends, visitors or any other contacts. We will ensure our members understand that displaying the following behaviours is expected during meetings and this helps to prevent abuse occurring:

- We are respectful to other members and visitors
- We treat others as we and they would want to be treated
- We will challenge comments and behaviour that hurts, intimidates or threatens others

## Guiding Principles

There are 2 main elements to NPC's approach to protection:

- 1) Prevention – We will put sensible measures in place to prevent abuse, including promoting the above behaviours, raising awareness of safeguarding and talking to the person affected to establish their views about what they want to happen next.
- 2) Protection – We will provide policy, procedures, guidance and respond appropriately to concerns about abuse that may be affecting a child or an adult who needs care and support.

In the vast majority of cases, NPC will only be required to provide information and signposting, to empower those affected to obtain the support they need and achieve the outcomes that they want. Where more action may be required, this will be undertaken following discussion with the Committee

## Types of Abuse and Abusers

There are many different types of abuse including (not exclusively) physical, psychological, sexual, financial and neglect. Abuse happens in many different situations including within intimate relationships, "friendships" and those in a position of trust. People who are abused often know the person who abusing them. We become aware of abuse in different ways for example we may be told by the person affected or notice other signs such as noticing bruises or changes in people's behaviour.

## **Roles & Responsibilities**

All members and visitors - Every individual attending or visiting NPC has a part to play in protecting children and adults who need care and support from abuse including reading and understanding this document, talking to those affected and reporting more significant matters to a Committee Member

Every individual must also comply with the age requirements (explained here) for attendance and provide appropriate evidence should they be asked to do so by a Committee Member.

To become a fully paid up, unaccompanied member of NPC members must be:

- 16 yrs and over
- 14-16 yrs (must only attend with a parent or guardian)

Occasionally, images shown during talks and competitions are of naked bodies both male and female. For this reason, all parents and guardians will be made aware of this, and those under the age of fourteen years are not permitted to attend.

The Committee – The Committee have responsibility for the general control and management of NPC. Committee members have a duty of care to NPC, which includes taking the necessary steps to protect those at risk from abuse, managing risk, protecting the reputation of the club and ensuring the age limits for members is adhered to.

The Committee will write and update this policy and procedure, advise members and visitors about all forms of abuse and where appropriate report abuse to the relevant local authority.

## **Equality Statement**

NPC is committed to providing an environment that embraces diversity and that promotes equality of opportunity. Everyone who accesses our club should be safe, empowered to play a part in in the club and be able to live a life free from abuse. This applies to all regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or belief. This is not an exhaustive list.

