

THIRSK AND DISTRICT MUSEUM SOCIETY SAFEGUARDING POLICY

This policy defines how Thirsk and District Museum Society operates to safeguard children, young people and vulnerable adults. We have a duty of care and are committed to the protection and safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults involved as visitors whilst on our premises.

Children and young people are defined as those persons under eighteen years old. For the purpose of this policy, the term vulnerable adult refers to someone over the age of eighteen who may have physical, learning or sensory disability, a mental health problem, a serious illness or may be an older person.

This policy will apply to all volunteers and contractors and will be used to protect and support them when they come into contact with these groups.

Volunteers who act as stewards come into contact with visitors. There are always two stewards on duty at any one time and they only have occasional contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults during the opening season of the museum. Volunteers acting as stewards provide two referees and complete the confidential declaration form and there is no DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) check carried out.

Contractors would normally carry out their work when the museum is closed. Only in exceptional circumstances would they be present in the museum at the same time as visitors and under these circumstances they would be monitored at all times by one of the stewards on duty.

The museum Society recognises the following categories of abuse:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Neglect

Volunteers acting as stewards are given an induction on safeguarding (see attached appendix) which includes the following practical advice:

- Definition of abuse
- Explanation of the four types of abuse
- Symptoms of abuse
- Action to be taken in the case of suspicion of abuse from observation
- Guidelines if a child, young person or vulnerable adult discloses to a steward that he/she has been abused.

The Museum has a nominated Safeguarding Designated Officer.