Our Safeguarding Policy

As a lifesaving charity, we believe in prioritising the safety and welfare of our people. Everyone has the right to be safe from harm, abuse and neglect – and sometimes this means we need to do more to protect those most vulnerable in our society.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is about protecting and supporting young people and vulnerable adults so they can live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

What do we mean by 'young people' and 'vulnerable adults'?

• Young people are those under the age of 18.
• Vulnerable adults are those aged 18 years or over and in need of community care services – for reasons such as mental health, disability, age or illness.

Who is responsible for safeguarding?

Safeguarding is everyone's business, regardless of your role and connection to the RNLI.

We all have a moral and legal responsibility to support the welfare and safety of young people and vulnerable adults. This includes staff, volunteers, contractors, partners, suppliers and the public who come into contact with us.

What do staff and volunteers need to do?

We all have a duty to safeguard the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults that we may meet, work or volunteer with. These responsibilities include:

• Understanding the full Safeguarding Policy – this is available on Compass.
• Treating people equally, with respect and dignity.
• Being vigilant – reporting any potentially unsafe practices.
• Knowing how to respond to a safeguarding concern.
• Immediately reporting any signs of abuse or harm by calling the duty officer on 08451 668222, or 0044 8451 668222 for Republic of Ireland.
• Adhering to the RNLI recruitment and induction processes.
• Working in an open environment (avoiding private, unobserved or one-on-one scenarios).
• Participating in any relevant training to keep informed and up-to-date on safeguarding practices.

Where can I get more information?

For further advice, visit Compass or email safeguarding@rnli.org.uk or speak to your line manager.

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