

# Safeguarding - Scotland

## Safeguarding

Scotland has comprehensive legislation and policy on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. As part of your Community Sponsorship project, you will have to satisfy the Home Office and your Local Authority that you have a robust safeguarding policy that complies with legislation and best practice in Scotland. To do this the [Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations](#) have lots of information and support available to do this. Including governance check-ups and guidance for trustees.

Safeguarding those you are working with is the responsibility of everyone, from trustees to volunteers. There are a range of organisations which provide training on safeguarding.

## Legal Context

The [Children \(Scotland\) Act 1995](#) is the key piece of legislation that covers safeguarding of neglect and abuse of children in Scotland, there is also a wider policy framework [National guidance for child protection in Scotland](#), which will cover the areas of safeguarding for children which you will need to be aware of. There is also further useful advice of the [legislative and practical framework in Scotland provided by the NSPCC](#).

For those over 16, if you have concerns about their ability to look after themselves, or if you suspect they are being abused or at risk of harm the legislation that protects them is The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 (the Act). [Citizens Advice Scotland have more detailed information on identifying harm and abuse, and who might be an adult at risk.](#) The [Scottish Government also have information about protecting adults at risk.](#)

In both cases, Local Authorities have dedicated departments to protect vulnerable groups, you will be able to access referrals, advice and support for any concerns you have through their dedicated services.

## Disclosure Scotland

Disclosure Scotland is an executive agency of the Scottish Government, providing criminal records disclosure services for employers and voluntary sector organisations – it enables organisations to check whether its volunteers or

employees are suitable for working with vulnerable groups. It allows organisations to safeguard those who they work with. The scheme covers both paid and unpaid roles. Depending on the type of role, and what you are expecting volunteers or staff to do they may not need a disclosure check, or need a different type of disclosure check.

## **Disclosure scheme**

The Disclosure scheme has several levels of check, depending on the type of work and role you have within an organisation and the work you are carrying out [more information can be found here](#).

## **Protection of Vulnerable Groups**

This type of check is for those who are undertaking specific work with vulnerable groups, and might not be applicable to some or all of your volunteers. You can find more information from [Disclosure Scotland](#) and [The Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations](#).