

## Safeguarding

*A comprehensive Lymphoma Action safeguarding policy is available. Please ask your staff contact.*

A Disclosure and Barring Check (DBS) for volunteers is not currently required due to the infrequent, unregulated activities you may take part in with children or vulnerable adults. The likelihood of a safeguarding issue coming to your attention is relatively low and depends on the type of volunteering activity you undertake. However, it is important that you you're aware of the actions to take if a situation arises during volunteering with us. If your volunteer role changes, either generally or in individual cases, this will be reviewed.

Safeguarding means preventing physical, sexual, mental or emotional abuse, or neglect of all children and of vulnerable adults, and also the financial abuse of vulnerable adults. Safeguarding requires you to take certain steps to report any abuse or any allegations of abuse by children or vulnerable adults, as well as any risk of harm that you see or hear about.

This overrides data protection and confidentiality in almost every circumstance. Any concerns about safeguarding issues in these situations must be acted on without delay by discussing them with your staff contact. Your staff contact is here to support you should you report any disclosure or allegation.

### **Action to be taken on disclosure, allegation or reasonable suspicion:**

If a disclosure or allegation of harm or risk of harm is made, or you have a reasonable suspicion of harm or risk of harm during your volunteering activities:

- Report it as soon as possible to your staff contact, who will inform the person responsible for reporting safeguarding issues at Lymphoma Action.
- If your staff contact is not available, or the allegation or suspicion concerns your staff contact, get in touch with Lymphoma Action head office and ask to speak to Stephen Scowcroft, Head of Business Development or another member of the Senior Management Team on 01296 619400.
- Describe the nature of the allegation or harm and the circumstances in which it came to your attention. Please use so far as possible, the words used by the child or adult.
- Be prepared to break confidentiality and identify everyone involved, if known and if requested.

Where someone discloses that they have been abused (either recently or historically), you should listen with care and not ask any unnecessary questions or appear to interrogate the person, although clarification should be sought wherever appropriate.

You will need to advise them that you will have to pass on the information to a Lymphoma Action staff member. You should avoid being judgmental or displaying strong emotions, and should not introduce personal or third party experiences of abuse.