

## Friends of MV Freedom

**Charity Number 283955**

### **POLICY - Safeguarding Young Persons and Vulnerable Adults**

1. The Friends of MV Freedom charity is committed to protecting the safety and well-being of young persons and vulnerable adults. We expect all our volunteers to share this commitment and to be aware of their own safeguarding responsibilities.
2. **A young person as defined by the Children Act, 1989 is:-**“ a person under the age of 18 years”.
3. **A vulnerable adult as defined by the Children Act 1989 is:**  
“A person who is in need of community care services by reason of mental health or other disability, age, or illness and is or may be unable to take care of him or herself against significant harm or exploitation”  
**NB:** Disability or age alone does not signify that an adult is vulnerable.
4. The Charity as a matter of policy, does not accept direct responsibility for the personal care of young persons or vulnerable adults whilst they are passengers on MV Freedom. In all cases such vulnerable young persons and adults will be accompanied by their carers or family members who will always provide all necessary personal care and attention. That policy does not preclude the crew of MV Freedom from having regard to the risk assessment and general health and safety of all persons whilst on board the vessel. The decision of the skipper in charge at the time will always be final in respect of any health and safety matters.
5. **Best Practice:**  
**Always:**
  - ✓ Treat all young persons and vulnerable adults equally, with respect and dignity.
  - ✓ Put the welfare of the vulnerable first.
  - ✓ Ensure any form of manual/physical support is provided openly, following consultation and agreement with the vulnerable and their carers.  
**Never:**
  - Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative activity.
  - Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching.
  - Make sexually suggestive comments to a vulnerable person even in fun.
  - Allow allegations made by a vulnerable person to go unrecorded or acted upon.
6. **Procedures:**  
  
**Reporting Procedure:**  
  
**If:**
  - ❖ You accidentally hurt a vulnerable person.
  - ❖ A vulnerable person seems distressed in any manner.
  - ❖ A vulnerable person appears to be sexually excited by your actions.
  - ❖ A vulnerable person misunderstands something you have done.
7. If you have any concerns, report it as soon as practicable to a Trustee, record it in the boats log and ensure the carers are informed.
8. **Responding to A Concern:**
  - ✓ Stay calm
  - ✓ Listen to the vulnerable person, show that you are taking what is being said seriously.

- ✓ Keep questions to a minimum, but you must have a clear and accurate understanding of any complaint or allegation. Take care not to lead a vulnerable person or to suggest words or ideas, as this could result in an abuse case being dismissed.
- ✓ Explain that you will have to tell other people in order stop any abuse.
- ✓ Record what has happened, and report the facts to a Trustee as soon as practicable.

9. If you suspect that a vulnerable person may have been the subject of abuse, it is not your responsibility to decide whether abuse has occurred/is occurring but it is your duty to report your concern to a Trustee as soon as practicable.

Last reviewed March 2019

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