

## **Herefordshire Federation Women's Institute**

### **Safeguarding in the WI**

The NFWI has recently implemented a new Safeguarding Policy, the purpose of which is to set out their safeguarding commitments to prevent and reduce harm to our members.

The WI is the largest women's membership organisation in the UK and a trusted place for all women. Your Trustees acknowledge their role in proactively safeguarding and promoting members' welfare at all times, in a safe and positive environment and by creating a supportive and listening culture.

So what is safeguarding? In essence it is making sure that someone is safe and can live their life the way they want to and without causing harm to others. No one should worry about harm happening to them, being taken advantage of, or distress being caused to them in any form. We all have a duty of care to each other and it is important to know that it is not your responsibility to ascertain whether there is a safeguarding issue, but your responsibility is to report your concern and in doing so you will be supported through the process.

Any reported concern does not breach confidentiality or data protection legislation (NFWI Safeguarding Policy 15.1).

Each Federation is now required to appoint a Federation Safeguarding Officer (FSO) who will manage safeguarding compliance, working with the NFWI Safeguarding Officer (NSO) and assisting WIs and individuals where necessary. Whilst all the Trustees have equal responsibility for the implementation of the new policy, the FSO will be the first point of contact to offer support as required to those who raise concerns and to signpost them to the relevant organisation.

If you have safeguarding concerns, queries or just for general information, your FSO can be contacted by emailing: [safeguarding@herefordshirewi.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@herefordshirewi.org.uk), or you can ring the office at WI House 01432 272268 and ask to speak to the Federation Safeguarding Officer. All contacts will be treated in the strictest confidence and in line with data protection practices, (reference NFWI Privacy Policy).

For further information please refer to the Safeguarding Policy which was sent to your WI Secretary in June 2023.

You will also find useful on MyWI, tab WI Policy & Guidance, drop down to Health & Safety section there is now a summary - NFWI Safeguarding leaflet.

Sandra Walker  
Federation Safeguarding Officer  
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