North Somerset Beekeepers

(a Branch of Avon Beekeepers Association Reg Charity No 271717)

Definition 'North Somerset Beekeepers' is used as an abbreviation of 'The North Somerset Branch of Avon Beekeepers Association'.

NSBK Safeguarding Policy 2025
Child Protection and the Protection of Vulnerable Adults

STATEMENT

The North Somerset Branch of Avon Beekeepers Association is committed to fulfilling its duty of care to children, young people and vulnerable adults with whom it may come into contact with. This will be achieved by promoting, creating and maintaining a culture and environment that safeguards the safety and welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults.

The branch recognises its duty to comply with legislative requirements to work with the appropriate agencies in protecting children and vulnerable adults and to ensure that any suspicions or allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to in a swift, appropriate and confidential manner.

Any member of the branch who has concerns about the welfare of a young volunteer or vulnerable adult, and which may indicate physical, emotional and sexual abuse or neglect, is required to report such concerns to the named person responsible for protection issues.

Those members of the branch who come into contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults, whether as volunteers with work parties or as helpers at school visits will be made aware of the North Somerset Beekeepers Protection Procedures and Code of Conduct. Those who come into regular contact with children, young people and vulnerable adults will also be checked through the Criminal Records Bureau procedure.

Procedures and Code of Conduct for members of North Somerset Beekeepers who come into contact with children and vulnerable adults

TYPES OF ABUSE

1. Physical
   Where a person receives physical hurt or injury that is not accidental

2. Sexual
   Where a person is the basis of sexual gratification from people exploiting the vulnerability of children or vulnerable adults

3. Emotional
   Where a person is adversely affected by persistent or severe rejection or lack of affection, or persistent taunts or threats

4. Neglect
   Where a serious impairment to personal health or development is caused by lack of care and attention and exposure to any kind of danger

DEFINITION OF A CHILD
A child is defined as any person aged under the age of 18.

DEFINITION OF A VULNERABLE ADULT
A vulnerable adult is an individual who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and includes those who may be unable to either take care of themselves or protect themselves against harm or exploitation.

Members in contact with children or vulnerable adults **must**:

- Ensure that if a child/vulnerable adult is not accompanied by a parent, guardian, carer or teacher acting in loco parentis, that the consent of the parent, guardian or carer has been given to any activity which is supervised by a member of North Somerset Beekeepers.
- Ensure that the child or vulnerable adult in his/her care observes the safety advice set out in the Branch Volunteering Policy and the document Working Safely at the branch apiaries.
- Ensure that whenever possible there is more than one adult present during activities with children/vulnerable adults, or if they are alone with a child/vulnerable adult, work in the open or near paths that are within sight or hearing of others.
- Avoid giving a child/vulnerable adult a lift in their car and avoid taking a child/vulnerable adult to their (the member's) home. If such a situation is unavoidable and is carried out with the safety of the child/vulnerable adult in mind, every effort should be made to get parental/guardian/carer permission first. If this is not possible members should let them know as soon as possible.
- Ensure all children and vulnerable adults are treated with respect and are encouraged to speak up if they have any concerns.
- Be aware that physical contact with a child or vulnerable adult may be misinterpreted. For this reason members must not engage in rough physical games, horseplay, or touch a child/vulnerable adult in an intrusive or sexual manner.
- Not make sexually suggestive remarks to a child or vulnerable adult, even as a joke.

- Be prepared to challenge unacceptable behaviour and ensure that any suspicions or allegations of abuse are recorded and reported to the named person responsible for dealing with protection issues.
- Declare that there is no reason why they should not work with children and vulnerable adults.
- Declare any past criminal convictions or pending cases and any complaints of abuse made against them.
- Have a criminal records check if they regularly come into connection with children in the course of their volunteering activities for the group.
- Members of the group will be informed of any allegations made to the protection officer and the action taken.

ROLE OF THE NAMED PERSON

- To receive information from volunteers, children, young people, vulnerable adults, parents or carers who have protection concerns and record it.
- Assess information promptly and carefully, clarifying or obtaining more information about the matter as appropriate.
- Consult with a statutory or child protection agency, to test out any doubts or uncertainty about the concerns.
- Make a formal referral to a statutory Child Protection agency or the Police.
- The named person will inform members of the group of any allegations made and the action taken.

It is **NOT** the role of the named person to decide whether a child has been abused or not.

POLICY REVIEW

North Somerset Beekeepers will review its policy annually and update and amend as necessary.

Reviewed: 30 October 2025
Next Review: 31 October 2026