

# Irish Draught Horse Society (GB)

## Safeguarding Adults At Risk: Policy Statement

Adults who may be at increased risk of harm have a right to participate in equestrian and all other sporting activities without fear of abuse and exploitation. The Society is committed to keeping people of all ages safe while participating in Society activities.

All trustees, non-elected officers and other volunteers are expected to be aware of this policy statement. They must understand what to do if they suspect that an adult who may be at increased risk is being subjected to any form of abuse or other inappropriate behaviour.

The Society gives equal priority to keeping everyone safe regardless of their age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation. We are aware that people from minority ethnic groups, people living with disabilities, certain physical or mental health needs and those with communication difficulties face additional barriers. These barriers may make them more vulnerable to abuse, discrimination or exploitation.

The Society welcomes diversity in its membership and is keen to welcome adults who may be at increased risk of harm as members. We encourage them to become involved in the Irish Draught breed through ownership and competition. It is therefore likely that such adults may be present at our shows and events. Our members should bear in mind that some disabilities are hidden and not immediately obvious to others.

### We will keep adults at risk safe by:

1. listening to and respecting them
2. appointing Designated Safeguarding Officers who take lead responsibility for safeguarding and adult protection, who:
  - Have appropriate levels of knowledge and training to carry out this role
  - Write detailed safeguarding and adult protection procedures and keep them up to date
  - Make sure that all trustees and other volunteers are aware of their safeguarding responsibilities, and know how to respond to concerns
  - Challenge any policy decisions which may adversely affect the wellbeing of adults at risk
  - Oversee any allegations of abuse against someone involved in the organisation and ensure that they are responded to by the appropriate agencies
  - Report serious incidents to the appropriate authorities within the specified timescales
  - Build a safeguarding culture where trustees and other Society members know how they are expected to behave and feel comfortable about sharing concerns.

The Society's Designated Safeguarding officers are currently:

Mark Mortimer	Tel. 01904 490000 / 07811 553122	Mortimer01@hotmail.co.uk
Heather Chaplin	Tel. 01823 601625 / 07392 299912	chaplinheather51@gmail.com

This policy is informed by the Care Act 2014 and the locally-agreed adult safeguarding procedures of the relevant local authority where an event or incident takes place.

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/part/1/crossheading/safeguarding-adults-at-risk-of-abuse-or-neglect>

*Date: 1 February 2026*