



Go Ape – Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy

Date of Issue: 19/12/2025

Approved by: Senior Lead for Safeguarding

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect vulnerable adults from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation when engaging with Go Ape activities, staff, or associated personnel.

This policy provides guidance to all employees on how to recognise, prevent, and respond to safeguarding concerns related specifically to vulnerable adults.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- All Go Ape employees.
- Volunteers, contractors, and consultants engaged by Go Ape.
- Visitors and associated personnel participating in or connected with Go Ape activities.

Policy Statement

Go Ape believes that all adults have the right to live free from harm, abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

We commit to:

- Zero tolerance of abuse or neglect of vulnerable adults.
- Embedding safeguarding responsibilities across all staff and activities.
- Ensuring safeguarding concerns are acted upon promptly, fairly, and in line with legislation.

Types of Abuse Covered

This policy covers (but is not limited to):

- Physical abuse

- Sexual abuse and exploitation
- Emotional/psychological abuse
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Financial or material abuse
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational or institutional abuse
- Self-neglect

Prevention

Go Ape responsibilities:

- Ensure all staff are aware of and trained in vulnerable adult safeguarding.
- Embed safeguarding considerations into activity design.
- Apply safeguarding checks during recruitment, onboarding, and management of staff and associated personnel.
- Provide role-appropriate safeguarding training.

Reporting Concerns

Concerns should be reported immediately to a Line Manager, Duty Operations or Safeguarding Officer.

If this is not possible (e.g. if they are implicated), staff may escalate directly to the Senior Lead for Safeguarding.

Go Ape will also accept safeguarding reports from external sources such as customers, carers, families, or agencies.

Reports will be managed in accordance with legal obligations (e.g. Care Act duties, local authority safeguarding processes).

Safeguarding Contacts

Senior Lead for Safeguarding – Dan Bruce

 daniel.bruce@goape.co.uk |  07834 774157



Safeguarding Officer – Ellis Cooper

✉ ellis.cooper@goape.co.uk | ☎ 07814405118

Response

All reports will be investigated promptly and fairly.

Concerns will be referred to the local authority safeguarding adults team or the police where appropriate.

Disciplinary action will be taken against any staff or personnel who breach this policy.

Confidentiality

All safeguarding concerns will be handled with strict confidentiality, shared only on a need-to-know basis. Records will be kept securely in accordance with data protection legislation.

Legal Framework

This policy is underpinned by UK safeguarding legislation and statutory guidance, including:

- Care Act 2014 (England)
- Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007
- Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007

Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually or sooner if legislation or best practice changes.

The Senior Lead for Safeguarding is responsible for ensuring compliance and continuous improvement.

Supporting Documents

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following Go Ape Ltd policies and procedures, which together form our safeguarding framework:



- Children and Young People Safeguarding Policy
- Vulnerable Adult Safeguarding Policy
- Employee & Under-18 Workers Safeguarding Policy
- Safer Recruitment Policy Statement
- Whistleblowing Policy
- Anti-Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Code of Conduct for Staff and Visitors
- Health and Safety Policy
- Disciplinary Policy and Procedures

Approval

This policy is approved and endorsed by:

Senior Lead for Safeguarding

Dan Bruce

Date: 28/08/2025