

Safeguarding adults: Advice for Coronavirus volunteers



Thank you for supporting our local community by volunteering.

We want to raise your awareness of safeguarding children and adults

Safeguarding adults means **protecting** the most **vulnerable** from **abuse** and **neglect**

Abuse and neglect can happen in different ways and can be perpetrated by anyone. **Any form of abuse or neglect is wrong.**

If you see something, are told something or something doesn't feel right then you need to report it.

At this time, it can be even harder for children and vulnerable adults to tell anyone about what is happening to them.

We know that other countries and parts of the UK have reported increases in:

- Domestic Abuse
- Self-neglect
- Scams

As a volunteer **you have a role** to help safeguard vulnerable adults in children and you **must** tell your coordinator if you see something that concerns you. This is so that safeguarding professionals can look into it further. **Do not try to investigate or enquire yourself.**

Pay attention to how people look or behave, for example:

- Someone appears scared or fearful of someone else in the same household
- You just have a sense something isn't quite right

Unfortunately, we also know some people who want to exploit or abuse others, may use this opportunity to become a volunteer. This is only a very small number of people, **but we all need to be alert to the possibility.**

If you see something that doesn't feel right, such as a volunteer being given money or inappropriate gifts, or crossing boundaries, then say something.

Talk to your coordinator if you are worried about anyone or want to check out something you have seen or heard. If you cannot speak to your coordinator you can also contact:

- Adult Social Care: 0300 123 2224 or adults@somerset.gov.uk
- Police: 101 or in an emergency 99

Remember, safeguarding is everyone's responsibility:

**IF YOU SEE SOMETHING,
SAY SOMETHING**

To find out more about adult safeguarding visit <https://ssab.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/>