

West Alness Residents Association
(West End Community Centre)

CODE OF PRACTICE FOR YOUTH WORKERS, VOLUNTEERS
AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS

West Alness Residents Association (WARA) is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of all children and young people by protecting them from physical, sexual and emotional harm. Volunteers and staff should, at all times, show respect and understanding for the rights of young people, and their safety and welfare, and conduct themselves in a way that reflects our policies and good practice guidelines.

No activity should be entered into that is potentially harmful to young people. Nationally recognised procedures regarding qualified instructors, safety equipment and good practice should be adhered to at all times.

You should not:

- Spend time alone with young people away from others
- Contact young people outwith the activity or project
- Take young people alone in a car on journeys, however short
- Take a young person to your home

Staff and volunteers should never:

- Engage in rough, physical and sexually provocative games, including horseplay
- Allow or engage in inappropriate touching of any form
- Allow young people or other staff and volunteers to use inappropriate language
- Make sexually suggestive comments about or to a young person, even in fun
- Deter young people from making allegations through a fear of not being taken seriously
- Do things of a personal nature for young people that they can do themselves
- Jump to conclusions about others without checking facts
- Show favouritism to any individuals
- Rely on just your own good name to protect you

Staff and volunteers should always:

- Treat everyone with respect
- Respect a young person's right to privacy
- Take seriously any allegations a young person makes, ensuring that the appropriate people are alerted and that the incident is recorded
- Provide access for young people to talk to others about any concerns they may have
- Remember that someone might misinterpret your actions, no matter how well intentioned
- Plan activities so that at least one other member of staff or volunteer is present, or is at least within sight or hearing of the activity
- Recognise that special caution is required even in sensitive moments of counselling, such as when dealing with bullying, bereavement or abuse
- Share their concerns about the young people, their youth work colleagues or themselves with the appropriate person

I agree to follow this code of practice

Signed and dated by the youth worker/volunteer/committee member

Signed and dated on behalf of the Association

(Child Protection officers Eileen Rapson and Biff Goulding)

Adopted May 2005

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