

Appendix A: Definition of terms

‘Abuse’

Abuse of children or vulnerable adults is often seen as sexual but that is only one form of abuse. It can also take the form of:

- Physical abuse when a person hurts, injures or bullies a child or vulnerable adult, gives inappropriate drugs or alcohol or fails to act to prevent harm.
- Emotional abuse that is persistent or severe; emotional ill treatment that has or is likely to have a serious effect on a child or vulnerable adult’s development. This includes negative discrimination such as bullying.
- Neglect is the failure to provide adequate food, health care, clothing, care and education.
- Sexual abuse occurs when someone exerts power, authority or position to gratify their own sexual needs.
- Financial abuse may become apparent when working with vulnerable adults. This is where the person is deprived of the money that is rightfully theirs: it may be theft, fraud, forgery or embezzlement.

The effects of abuse are wide ranging and profound; they vary according to the type of abuse and the length of time it has been endured. They can lead to problems of health, behaviour, mental health, education and drug and alcohol misuse. They can lead to self-harm, suicide attempts and in extreme cases, death.

For more details about the forms and signs of abuse please see Appendix I: Forms and signs of abuse.

‘Child’

Any person under the age of 18 years.

‘Vulnerable adult’

The term ‘vulnerable adult’ has been amended as it was felt to be inappropriate to label an adult as vulnerable solely due to their circumstances, age or disability. In general terms, an adult (a person aged 18 or over) is classed as vulnerable when they are receiving one of the following services:

- Health care;
- Relevant personal care;
- Social care work;
- Assistance in relation to general household matters by reason of age, illness or disability;
- Relevant assistance in the conduct of their own affairs; or
- Conveying (due to age, illness or disability in prescribed circumstances)

A person who is elderly is not necessarily ‘vulnerable’.

‘Regulated Activity’

Activities with Children

When Rotarians/supporters are to be involved

- in a Regulated Activity with Children,
- in a Specified Establishment,
- meet the Time Period condition,
- and have the opportunity to have contact with Children as a result of anything he/she is permitted or required to do in connection with the activity,

they are required to have an Enhanced DBS check.

Regulated Activity relating to children

1. Unsupervised Activities

Teach, train, instruct, care for or supervise children, provide advice/guidance on well being, drive a vehicle only for children.

2. Specified Establishments

Schools, Academies (provision of full time education to under 18's) pupil referral units children's homes, child care premises, children's detention centres, family/children centres

3. Personal Care* / Health Care*

For example washing or dressing; or health care by or supervised by a health care professional.

4. Registered Childminding* and Foster-Carers*

5. Day to Day management on a regular basis of person providing a regulated activity.

6. Welsh Offices

This does not include family or personal arrangements

* Even if done only once

Time Period of Contact

- Frequently – defined by DBS as 'once a week or more'
- 4 or more days in a 30 day period
- Overnight between 2.00am-6.00am