

A Fellowship Safeguarding Policy

The General Service Board of Alcoholics Anonymous (Great Britain) Limited (GSB) is a charitable company, with registered charity number 226745.

The members of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) support each other in self regulating groups (the AA Fellowship) which are autonomous from the GSB.

Whilst the purpose of the GSB is to serve the AA Fellowship, the Groups which make up the AA Fellowship are recognised by the Charity Commission as informal, autonomous affiliated groups which have no independent constitution.

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and Scottish Government have confirmed that AA members do not require DBS or Disclosure Scotland checks for 12th Stepping or Sponsoring, as they are members of self- regulating groups. As individuals, however, AA members should be aware of their duty of care to others and hence follow the law and best practice on safeguarding, when acting in AA's name

The basic principle

Everyone should recognise that all individuals, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

AA affirms this principle in the context of its common welfare, primary purpose and anonymity.

The AA Traditions give general guidance to all those in understanding the duty of care owed by one AA member to

another, as well as those they encounter, through the AA Fellowship.

Who the Policy protects?

This Policy applies to the safeguarding of all AA members, GSB Trustees and General Service Office staff, and those they encounter when acting in AA's name, including minors.

Criteria for Service as a first Responder with the Bristol Telephone Service

- One year's continuous Sobriety
- A Home Group
- Working the 12 step Program with a sponsor

Telephone Responding and 12th stepping with the telephone Service is not available to anyone who is in violation of DBS or Disclosure Scotland checks.

However, We would never ask this question of anyone but respectfully leave it to the individual's conscience when applying for this Service.