

# Invercharron Highland Games Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy

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'It's everyone's job to make sure I'm alright', published by the Scottish Executive in 2002, stressed that child and vulnerable adult protection is everyone's responsibility. 'Everyone' means just that - a shared responsibility between communities, voluntary organisation's and statutory services. This applies to vulnerable adults who may visit the Invercharron Highland Games (IHG).

It is sometimes the case that children or vulnerable adults at risk of serious harm do not come to the attention of the agencies that can help until matters reach a point where compulsory measures may be needed to protect them. IHG recognises that it would be so much more effective if vulnerable children/adults were swiftly identified and early and intervention put in place to prevent them from experiencing serious harm. It is, therefore, recognised that any concern encountered where children/adults are thought to be at risk must be dealt with speedily.

There are many types of harm, including: neglect of the child's/adults physical, developmental or emotional needs; physical or sexual abuse; living with chaotic drug/alcohol users, with domestic violence or in other high risk situations. During the course of working with IHG there may come a time when volunteers have information disclosed to them that raises cause for concern in terms of child/vulnerable adult protection issues. IHG recognises that whilst this is very rare, it is essential that all committee members and volunteers ensure the following procedures are clearly understood and adhered to.

## 1. Procedures for IHG Committee members

1.1. If a volunteer or member of the public reports any concerns that a child/vulnerable adult may be at risk of serious harm or concerns are raised the IHG committee member will:

1.1.1. Contact the secretary who will act as liaison. The secretary will then:

1.1.2. Fully discuss the concerns with the person reporting and gather all information including taking down and recording their contact details and full details of what they have heard or witnessed.

1.1.3. Make contact with the President and/or other committee members to discuss the matter and then contact a relevant professional to discuss concerns. There are a range of professionals with whom the situation can be discussed and these include:

- [NHS staff](#) - GP, health visitor, school nurse
- [Police](#)
- [Social Workers](#)

# Invercharron Highland Games Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy

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1.1.4. Alternatively concerns can be reported by phoning 01463 703488. Please note this number is for reporting concerns only. Outwith normal business hours the 24 Hour Emergency number for Social Work is 0845 601 4813.

1.1.5. Where a child/vulnerable adult is at immediate risk of serious harm the Police or local Social Work Office will be contacted immediately.

The following details provide information which may be helpful in recognizing the signs that a child or a vulnerable adult may be being abused.

## **Notes 1 - Types Of Abuse**

Vulnerable adults and/or children can be at risk of one, or several, of the following categories of abuse. The following list is not exhaustive.

### **Physical**

- hitting
- kicking
- inappropriate physical restraint
- force feeding
- inappropriate sanctions

### **Emotional/Psychological/Social**

- threat of harm or abandonment
- intimidation by word or deed
- humiliation
- harassment
- enforced social isolation or withdrawal from support networks
- verbal or racial abuse

### **Financial**

- Misuse and/or misappropriation of monies, benefits and/or property including:
- theft
- fraud
- pressure in connection with wills
- property or inheritance or financial transfer

### **Neglect/Deprivation**

- deprivation of food, warmth, clothing, medical attention, or aids
- neglect of physical and emotional needs

### **Misuse of Medication**

- the withholding of appropriate medication over sedation

### **Sexual Abuse**

- This occurs when vulnerable adults are involved in sexual relationships or activities which they have not consented to, or they cannot understand and

# Invercharron Highland Games Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy

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are in a situation where they are being exploited or pressured into consenting. Such activities could include:

- unwanted physical and sexual contact
- indecent exposure
- sexual harassment (verbal or physical)
- displaying pornographic literature or videos

## **Dietary Misuse**

- Too little appropriate dietary input to sustain an appropriate nutritional status and good health
- Too much appropriate dietary input to sustain an appropriate nutritional status and good health

## **Notes 2 Possible Indicators Of Abuse**

### **Some Possible Indicators of Physical Abuse:**

- unexplained skin bruising
- unexplained cuts or abrasions
- unexplained burns
- unexplained fractures etc.

However, please remember some physiological processes/medical conditions can cause changes which are hard to distinguish from some aspects of physical abuse.

### **Some possible Indicators of Neglect:**

- poor hygiene
- malnutrition
- inappropriate clothing
- broken skin

### **Some Possible Psychological and Emotional Indicators:**

- withdrawal
- depression
- cowering and fearfulness
- sudden changes in behaviour
- deliberate self-harm

### **Some Possible Indicators of Sexual Abuse:**

- unexplained marked fluctuation of mood changes
- gentia-urinary infection
- pain, bruising or bleeding in genital or anal areas
- inappropriate sexually related activities/behaviour

### **Some General Indicators Which May Suggest Abuse:**

- seeking shelter or protection
- unexplained reactions towards particular settings

# Invercharron Highland Games Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy

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- frequent or regular visits to the GP, or hospital casualty department, or hospital admissions
- frequent or irrational refusal to accept investigations or treatments for routine difficulties
- inconsistency of explanation

## **Notes 3 Risk Indicators**

**Where the following "trigger" behaviours are apparent, these may be additional indicators that abuse is occurring:**

- destruction of physical environment
- turning night into day/sleep disturbance
- chronic incontinence
- extreme physical and/or emotional dependence
- verbal abuse and aggression towards the carer
- changes in personality – caused by illness and/or medication
- non-compliance with carers wishes
- obsessive behaviour
- wandering/absconding
- self-harm

**The following problems exhibited by the carer may increase the risk and likelihood of an abusive situation:**

- alcoholism
- mental illness
- stress
- chronic fatigue
- frequent medical consultation

**There may also be a variety of other contributing factors such as:**

### **Family History:**

- marital violence
- child abuse
- previous relationship difficulties
- conflicting demands of other family members

### **Family Problems:**

- housing
- financial
- employment
- lack of support
- lack of respite

### **Individual Unmet Need:**

# Invercharron Highland Games Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy

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- lack of appropriate opportunities for the experience and development of all types of personal relationships
- lack of appropriate opportunity for individual autonomy and choice
- lack of knowledge of information/support

## Notes 4 Useful Contacts And Agencies

**POLICE SCOTLAND: Call: 101 or 999 in Emergency**

### Social Work Nominated Officers

**Caithness** Area Community Care Manager High Street Wick  
01955 605040

**Sutherland** Area Community Care Manager Main Street Golspie, KW10 6RB  
01408 633033

**Inverness** Area Community Care Manager Town House Inverness, IV1 1 JJ  
01463 724220

**Lochaber** Area Community Care Manager Tweeddale Buildings High Street,  
Fort William, PH33 6EL 01397 703397

**Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey** Area Community Care Manager Corsee Resource  
Centre, Victoria Street Nairn IV12 4HH 01479 810251

**Ross & Cromarty, Skye & Lochalsh** Area Community Care Manager Council  
Offices High Street Dingwall, IV15 9QN 01349 868569

### Local Health Nominated Officers

**Caithness** Assistant General Manager North Highland Community Health  
Partnership, Caithness General Hospital, Wick 01955 605050

**Sutherland** Assistant General Manager North Highland Community Health  
Partnership, Lawson Memorial Hospital Golspie 01408 664052

**Ross & Cromarty** Assistant General Manager Mid Highland Community Health  
Partnership, Maywood Dingwall 01349868793

**Skye & Lochalsh** Assistant General Manager Mid Highland Community Health  
Partnership, MacKinnon Memorial Hospital Skye 01471 822137