



## Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research

### Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

Approved on 16 February 2017

#### **Notes:**

The jurisdiction of this policy is for the UK as most other countries have laws regarding these audiences that would take precedent. The policy should be thought of as a guide for activities occurring in other countries.

Resources used in developing this policy:

The Child and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy template recommended by PEM.

UK Charity Commission

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/charities-how-to-protect-vulnerable-groups-including-children>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-children-and-young-people>

UK National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/safeguarding/writing-a-safeguarding-policy/>

SCAR is charged with initiating, developing and coordinating high quality international scientific research in the Antarctic region (including the Southern Ocean), and on the role of the Antarctic region in the Earth system. Our activities mainly deal with adult researchers and stakeholders, however there are times where children or vulnerable adults do participate, particularly in outreach events. We are committed to keeping the welfare of any child or vulnerable adult who is involved with any of our activities paramount and to ensuring that everyone participating in our activities is valued, listened to and respected.

All children and vulnerable adults, whatever their sex, disability, racial or ethnic background, religious beliefs or sexual orientation, have a right to be in a safe and caring environment when participating in any activities run by SCAR and to equal protection from any form of exploitation or abuse.

Everyone working with SCAR, including its trustees, employees, and volunteers, are responsible for ensuring that children and vulnerable adults are safe.

We consider any individual aged under 18 to be a child for the purposes of this child and vulnerable adult protection policy. This includes the children of adult members or service users of the charity. Vulnerable adults are those aged over 18 who receive or may need support to live in the community, or who may be unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation by other people. This may be as a result of a learning or physical disability, a physical or mental illness or a reduction in physical or mental capacity.

To the best of our ability, we will promote the welfare of all children and vulnerable adults participating in our activities by:

- following appropriate procedures when recruiting and selecting new staff or volunteers;
- ensuring that any concerns or allegations of abuse are referred appropriately and co-operating with the work of statutory agencies as necessary;
- identifying and implementing good practice in relation to the care, protection and welfare of children and vulnerable adults; and
- encouraging parents and carers to be involved and develop a relationship with SCAR which promotes the welfare of their child or the vulnerable adult for whom they care.

We will review our policy and procedures regularly.

Adopted by: The SCAR Executive Committee

Date Policy Adopted: 16 February 2017