



## Position Statement

### SAFEGUARDING

January 2020

This statement sets out the NFCC's position on the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

It applies to all aspects of the fire and rescue services work and to everyone working, volunteering or those commissioned to deliver services for the fire and rescue service, including firefighters and other employees, whose work brings them in to contact with children and vulnerable adults on a regular basis.

The Fire & Rescue National Framework documents provide clear instruction on the delivery of core functions, which includes prevention, protection and response.

UK Fire and Rescue Authorities and devolved administrations have various legislative frameworks, such as the Fire and Rescue Services Act (2004), applicable to England and Wales that places a statutory duty to promote fire safety, placing the prevention of fires at the heart of their activity.

Fire and rescue services have a legal and moral obligation to have appropriate safeguarding arrangements in place and have key legal duties together with core themes which are underpinned by the standards set out in Section 11 of the Children Act 2004 and Section 42 – 46 of the Care Act 2014.

Each fire and rescue service has a duty to ensure that their staff and volunteers are equipped and trained to support such activity and that robust and rigorous checks are in place to ensure the suitability of those trusted to safeguard.

To that end the NFCC endorse the position that basic disclosure checking, is used as a minimum to ensure the suitability of staff and volunteers to undertake their roles.

The NFCC recommend that the Disclosure and Barring Service is utilised for all roles which bring staff and volunteers into contact with the public.

The NFCC encourages Fire & Rescue Services to consider the need for increased level of checks for those roles that are required to carry out specific or regulated activities as defined within The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act (ROA) 1974, The Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1975 (Exceptions) Order 1975 and The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and Protection of Vulnerable Groups (Scotland) Act 2007.

The NFCC fully support Safeguarding and Safer Recruitment practices which protect the most vulnerable.

The NFCC recognises the trusted position that the FRS holds within its communities and the privileges it presents which enables fire and rescue services to continue to delivery effective prevention, protection and response services.

The NFCC supports the understanding that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

**Committee**  
Prevention

**Date for Review**  
January 2023