



WHIS / GSPA – Global Chapter Governance Pack & Safeguarding Policy

Purpose:

To support voluntary chapters in operating safely, ethically, and effectively while delivering social prescribing and wellbeing initiatives worldwide.

1 Governance & Leadership

- **Chapter Lead:** Overall operational responsibility.
- **Safeguarding Lead:** Responsible for implementing safeguarding standards locally.
- **Deputy/Support Roles:** Recommended for continuity.
- **Reporting:** Chapter Lead provides quarterly updates or as requested to WHIS/GSPA Secretariat.

2 Safeguarding & Safety

- **Policy:** Chapters adopt the Global WHIS/GSPA Safeguarding Policy, covering children, adults at risk, and vulnerable community members.
- **Training:** Mandatory safeguarding induction for staff, volunteers, and link workers; refresher annually.
- **Safe Recruitment:** Role descriptions, references, and background checks per local requirements; signed Code of Conduct.
- **Reporting & Escalation:** Local reporting lines and global escalation pathway. Immediate risk → contact local authorities.
- **Data & Confidentiality:** Secure handling of personal data, compliant with GDPR or local law.

3 Operational Standards

- **Service Delivery:** Risk assessments, referral pathways, lone working guidance, and event safety measures.
- **Partnerships:** Collaborate only with organisations meeting safeguarding and ethical standards; documented agreements recommended.
- **Community Engagement:** Inclusive, accessible, and equitable participation. Collect feedback for continuous improvement.

4 Reporting & Accountability

- Quarterly Reporting: Activity summary, participant numbers, partnerships, and safeguarding incidents.
- Annual Review: Governance, safeguarding, and operational compliance reviewed and submitted to WHIS/GSPA Secretariat.

5 Required Documentation

- Signed acknowledgment of the Global WHIS/GSPA Safeguarding Policy
- Chapter Lead & Safeguarding Lead details
- Training log for staff and volunteers
- Risk assessments and incident reporting procedures
- Partnership agreements / MoU
- Annual activity report

6 Optional Enhancements

- Chapter insurance guidance
- Online safeguarding guidance
- Event and workshop safety framework
- Complaints & whistleblowing procedures



Global WHIS / GSPA Safeguarding Policy

Purpose: Protect the wellbeing of all participants, staff, and volunteers globally. Adapt locally as required.

Scope: Applies to chapter leads, staff, volunteers, link workers, clinicians, partners, students, researchers, and programme participants. Covers children, adults at risk, and vulnerable individuals.

Policy Highlights:

- Protect from abuse, neglect, exploitation, and discriminatory harm.
- Duty of all members to report concerns.
- Safe recruitment, training, data protection, and local compliance mandatory.
- Reporting: Immediate risk → local authorities; other concerns → Chapter Safeguarding Lead → Global Safeguarding Lead.
- Annual review of policy and practices.

Voluntary Chapter Disclaimer

- Participation in WHIS/GSPA chapters is entirely voluntary.
- Chapters are self-organising and operate independently, guided by WHIS/GSPA frameworks.
- Chapters are responsible for local legal compliance, including safeguarding, data protection, and operational regulations.
- WHIS/GSPA provides guidance and support but does not accept liability for incidents within chapters.
- Chapters should seek local legal or professional advice where needed.
- Completion of this pack and policy acknowledgment confirms the chapter understands its voluntary status and agrees to operate in line with WHIS/GSPA standards as applicable.

 By completing this pack, your chapter confirms:

- Understanding of voluntary status
- Commitment to global WHIS/GSPA safeguarding, governance, and operational standards
- Agreement to maintain safe, ethical, and effective chapter activities