🌍 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.

1️⃣ 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.**

2️⃣ 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.**

3️⃣ 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.**

4️⃣ 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.**

5️⃣ 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**

6️⃣ 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**