



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Al-Anon Family Groups UK & Eire is committed to providing a safe environment for everyone who attends meetings and is involved in the organisation.

Everyone who comes to an Al-Anon meeting does so to recover from the effects on them of someone else's drinking. During the early days of attending meetings, we are all vulnerable therefore providing a safe and secure environment to talk about difficult situations is paramount.

We do this by ensuring all members, particularly newcomers, are given a warm welcome, by having guidelines for welcoming young people and by emphasising our principles of confidentiality and anonymity.

All Al-Anon Family Groups have

- Public liability insurance
- a data protection policy
- a health and safety policy
- all volunteers at GSO abide by a code of conduct and sign a confidentiality agreement
- all volunteers on the telephone helpline, both in house and out of hours, receive appropriate training and sign a confidentiality agreement

In the UK response to a disclosure of abuse by anyone under 18 will be appropriate, proportionate and timely. This will include support, understanding, reassurance, and encouragement to contact appropriate outside agencies. Any disclosure will be reported to the Al-Anon General Service Office but no investigations will be made by members or staff.

In Eire while the legal requirements on Garda vetting and child protection are being clarified Alateen meetings (for 12- 17-year olds) are suspended and young people under the age of 18 cannot attend Al-Anon meetings.

This policy was approved by the General Service Board in June 2018 and will be reviewed annually.