



## **Protecting Vulnerable Adults and Children Policy Statement**

**Torphins Paths Group** welcomes children and vulnerable adults on appropriate walks and activities. We are committed to equal opportunities and aim to treat everyone with dignity and respect, and not to discriminate on grounds of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex or sexual orientation.

We are committed to ensuring the wellbeing of everyone, including children, young people and vulnerable adults, who participate in **Torphins Paths Group** activities. We will take every practical step to minimise the risk of harm, paying particular attention to the needs of those who are most vulnerable, including children and vulnerable adults. We are also committed to supporting fully our **Walk Leaders and Volunteers** in their work, including protecting them from potential liabilities and false suspicions and allegations of abuse.

We don't, however, expect our **Walk Leaders or Volunteers** to provide specialist care and support for people who have special needs or who are unable to care independently for themselves, or to take special responsibility for looking after children and young people under the age of 18.

**Torphins Paths Group** will only accept children under the age of 16 on activities when they are accompanied by a parent, a legal guardian, or an other person with equivalent responsibility for them, such as a teacher or youth worker. We will only welcome adults in need of special care when they are accompanied by a carer or support worker to assist with their everyday needs.

**Project Coordinators, Walk Leaders and Volunteers** sometimes need to make judgements that take into account the safety and enjoyment of everyone involved in a walk or activity. They have a right to refuse a participant if in the leader's opinion this would result in danger to the individual or danger or major disruption to the rest of the group. Our Project Coordinators and Walk Leaders will make these judgements on a fair and practical basis and without making stereotypical or unwarranted assumptions.