

Guidance for volunteers / participants

We are committed to ensuring the wellbeing of everyone who participates in FORCE activities and 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 our hardworking volunteers.

1. This section of the policy is particularly relevant to children and young people; their parents, guardians and carers; vulnerable adults and others with special needs; and their carers and support workers. We work to make FORCE accessible to all, particularly those who need support to get active and stay active, and want to share its benefits with as wide a range of people as possible. We are committed to equal opportunities and diversity and aim to treat everyone with dignity and respect, and not to discriminate.
2. Everyone is welcome to participate in activities, as long as it is safe and appropriate for them.
3. We are not able to provide specialist care and support for those that need it. We are also unable to accept responsibility for unaccompanied children and young people under 18.
4. When attending FORCE walks and volunteer activities:
 - Check that a walk/activity is appropriate for you before turning up.
 - If you are under 18, you will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult when participating in a walk, such as your parent, legal guardian, carer, teacher or youth worker.
 - If you are a responsible adult accompanying children or young people under 18, be aware that you are responsible for their direct care and supervision, and that this is not the responsibility of FORCE walk leaders or activity leader.
 - If you are an adult who is in receipt of a “regulated activity”, or needs specific help in order to participate in an activity safely you must be accompanied by another adult such as a carer or support worker who takes responsibility for your care.
 - If you are a carer or support worker accompanying someone in receipt of a “regulated activity”, or needs special assistance, please be aware you are responsible for their direct care and special assistance, and this is not the responsibility of FORCE activity leaders.
 - If you are over 18, please complete the relevant registration documents. We do not collect information on under-18s.
 - Please tell the activity leader discreetly and in confidence about any medical conditions that may affect the ability of you or the people in your care to participate safely in the activity. You can contact us on info@force.org.uk
 - Please follow the advice of the walk leader / volunteer co-ordinator.
 - Leaders have to take responsibility for everyone’s safety and enjoyment, and can refuse to accept people who in their judgement may place themselves or the group in danger or seriously disrupt the activity, so long as a judgement is not based on stereotypical assumption or prejudice.
 - If you have any concerns about the behaviour of anyone participating, such as abusive, threatening or inappropriate behaviour, raise this discreetly with the walk leader. If you have concerns that a child or vulnerable person is being placed in danger or abused, you can raise this with your local authority, the NSPCC helpline and/or the FORCE safeguarding officer.