

Louise Smalley Walk

Safeguarding Adults

Introduction

We all have a responsibility to safeguard adults who are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse and neglect.

This policy and procedures outlines what adult safeguarding is and what to do if you have a concern. The safeguarding children and young people policy, for those under the age of 18, is covered in a separate document.

Policy statement

LSW is committed to creating and maintaining a safe and positive environment for all people involved in the LSW activities. It accepts its responsibility to assist in the welfare of all people and to safeguard them from poor practice, abuse and bullying.

All individuals within the organisation - members/volunteers/support staff - have a role and responsibility to help ensure the safety and welfare of adults.

LSW accepts that we are required to fulfil our duty of care, which means that we must do everything that can be reasonably expected of us to help safeguard and protect people from harm, and to act when we suspect that someone is being harmed, or is at risk of harm.

What is adult safeguarding?

The official definition of "Adult safeguarding" is working with adults with care and support needs to keep them safe from abuse or neglect. It is an important part of what many public services do, and a key responsibility of local authorities (Care Act 2014).

The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect, as a result of those care and support needs

Adults who fulfil this criteria are 'adults at risk'.

People can have a need for care and support for a variety of reasons – for example they may have a learning disability, a physical disability, a chronic health condition or have a mental health issue. Such conditions may bring with them additional vulnerabilities, however having care and support needs does not mean that people are automatically adults at risk and need safeguarding.

Safeguarding adults is underpinned by:

- The Care Act 2014
- Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005

Types of abuse suffered by adults identified in the Care Act 2014 are:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Psychological/Emotional/Mental
- Financial and material
- Neglect and act of omission
- Discriminatory
- Organisational
- Modern Day Slavery
- Domestic Violence
- Self Neglect – including hoarding

Other types of harm that adults may experience include:

- Cyber Bullying
- Forced Marriage
- Female Genital Mutilation
- Mate Crime
- Radicalisation

Safe recruitment and safeguarding training

We want to make sure that all of our volunteers have the right skills and qualities to create a safe environment. All volunteers will be subject to safe recruitment procedures and will also be updated with any relevant policies and procedural changes. Appropriate training will also be identified and offered, including safeguarding training.

Communication

The LSW will make available its Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures to all volunteers, members and partner organisations.

What to do if you have concerns about an adult member

LSW members and volunteers are not expected to be experts in recognition of a safeguarding concern; however, all adults working, volunteering and participating have a duty of care to be vigilant and respond appropriately to suspicions of poor practice, abuse or bullying. They should also respond to any indication of abuse that may be occurring outside of the organisation setting.

This does not mean that it is your responsibility to decide if a situation is poor practice, abuse or bullying, but it is your responsibility to report your concerns to the Welfare Officer or Deputy Welfare Officer.

If you cannot contact someone within the organisation or feel that your concerns are not being dealt with properly you can contact [details of a national or other local safeguarding lead], the local authority safeguarding adults team [insert details] or ACT, the national safeguarding adults organisation www.anncrafttrust.org

What to do if you have a concern

You have a concern about an adult based on observations, disclosure or an allegation

If there is an immediate risk and you need to ensure the immediate safety or medical welfare of the adult

Call 999 or 101 for an ambulance or the police

If there is not an immediate risk

Where possible discuss your concerns with the adult. Inform that you will have to share them with the Organisation Welfare Officer James Haslam

If the Welfare Officer is not available, contact Deputy Welfare Officer Liz Hatton

Give them the full details of your concerns. They will log them/ask you to log them and follow your organisation's safeguarding procedures in conjunction with local safeguarding adults policy and procedures.

If there is no one available from within your organisation then contact the Local Authority Safeguarding Adults Team for advice 01629 533190

If the decision is to make a safeguarding referral to the Local Authority, the adult's consent should be sought wherever possible. However if they remain at risk or others are at risk of harm you will need to report it without their consent if necessary.

Remember

It is not your duty to investigate concerns about an adult but don't ignore them – talk to the adult if possible and get in touch with someone within your organisation or the local authority for advice

Report of disclosure or witnessing signs of abuse of adult at risk of harm
CONFIDENTIAL

Full name of person disclosing or showing signs of abuse				
Age and date of birth (if known)	Day	Month	Year	
Gender				
Address (if known)				
Full name of the person with parental/carer/guardian responsibility, their relationship to Child/young person/adult, and address (if different from address above)				
Date and time of disclosure or when signs of abuse witnessed	Day	Month	Year	Time
Describe the circumstances which led to the disclosure, or the concern about possible abuse				
Record of what was said (in person's own words) or the signs of abuse seen <i>NB in addition, attach any original handwritten notes</i>				
Were there any other witness? If so, give name, address and status (e.g. whether member, supporter, relative etc)				
Have they provided a report?	Yes/no			
Comments or observations by person completing this form				
Name of person completing form				
Phone number and address				
Signature				