

Adult Safeguarding Policy

Friends of Dartmouth Park

Policy Aims

- The purpose of this policy is to outline the duty and responsibility of staff/volunteers working on behalf of Friends of Dartmouth Park in relation to safeguarding Adults at risk.
- All adults have the right to be safe from harm and must be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Objectives

Everyone who participates in the Association's activities is entitled to do so in a safe and enjoyable environment.

The Association is committed to helping everyone within any activities accept their responsibility to safeguard adults at risk, from harm and abuse.

All suspicions and allegations of abuse and poor practice will be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately.

Staff and volunteers working with adults at risk, have a responsibility to report concerns to their Association welfare officer.

Definition of an Adult at Risk

- An adult (a person aged 18 or over) who is, or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental health or other disability, age or illness: and who is or may be unable to take care of him/herself, or unable to protect him/herself against significant harm or exploitation'. (definition from the Department of Health 2002)
 - This could include people with learning disabilities, mental health problems, older people and people with a physical disability or impairment. It may also include victims of domestic abuse, hate crime and anti-social behaviour.
 - The person's needs for additional support to protect themselves may be increased when complicated by additional factors, such as physical frailty or chronic illness, sensory impairment,

challenging behaviour, drug or alcohol problems, social or emotional problems, poverty or homelessness.

Responsibilities and Communication

- **(insert your group name)** Safeguarding Policy will be available to all members, parents, staff, volunteers and participants. It is important that adults at risk are protected from abuse. All complaints, allegations or suspicions must be taken seriously and the Association passing information to the appropriate local safeguarding board and informing the appropriate individuals where relevant.
- The organisation has responsibility for ensuring that the policy and procedures are implemented, including referring any appropriate disciplinary action to the committee.

The Role of Key Individual Agencies

- **Adult Social care** – The Department of Health's recent 'No Secrets' Guidance document required that authorities develop a local framework within which all responsible agencies work together to ensure a coherent policy for the protection of vulnerable adults at risk of abuse.

All local authorities have a Safeguarding Adults Board, which oversees multi-agency work aimed at protecting and safeguarding vulnerable adults. It is normal practice for the board to include people from partner organisations who have the ability to influence decision making and resource allocation within their organisation.

- **The Police** – The police play a vital role in safeguarding adults with cases involving alleged criminal acts. It becomes the responsibility of the police to investigate allegations of crime by preserving and gathering evidence. Where a crime is identified, the police will be the lead agency and they will direct investigations in line with legal and other procedural protocols.

Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be reviewed one year after being introduced and then every three years or in response to significant new legislation by the (*insert your group name*) Management Committee and amended as appropriate. Guidance from Sandwell Adults Safeguarding Board will be sought as necessary.
- The policy will be monitored in partnership with the Management Committee

Reporting a Concern

Any safeguarding concern must be raised with the relevant organisation representative. This will then be recorded using an Adult Safeguarding consent form (PAN1 - see attached), or by seeking further advice from the SASB (Sandwell Adult Safeguarding Board).

Is it An Emergency?

When someone is distressed or hurt they need immediate help. Make sure the person is safe. Call 999 for the police or other emergency services.

Not an Emergency

If you are worried about someone, or know or suspect abuse, act now.

Report It

Call Sandwell Adult safeguarding Board (SASB) on 0121 569 2266 or email Sandwell_enquiry@sandwell.gov.uk. We are open from 9am – 5.30pm Monday to Thursday and 9am – 5pm on Fridays. Outside of these hours call 0121 569 2355. Tell the manager on Duty at the service where the person is.

Action may need to be taken against the abuser, and the circumstances investigated to prevent further harm.

If you have contact with adults at risk- as a carer, volunteer, personal assistant, or through working in health and social care – you should report your concerns on our Adult Safeguarding Concern Form (see attached).

Types of Abuse

The Department of Health in its No Secrets' 2000 report suggests the following as main types of abuse:

- **Physical Abuse** – including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, mis-use of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions.
- **Sexual Abuse** – including rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the vulnerable adult has not consented, or could not consent or was pressured into consenting.
- **Psychological Abuse** – including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or support networks.
- **Financial or Material Abuse** – including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- **Neglect and Acts of Omission** – including ignoring medical or care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care and educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- **Discriminatory Abuse** – including race, sex, religion, culture religion, politics, that is based on a person's disability, age or sexuality and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment, hate crime.
- **Institutional Abuse** – institutional abuse, , although not a separate category of abuse itself, requires specific mention simply to highlight that adults placed in any kind of care home or day care establishment are potentially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. This can be especially so when care standards and practices fall below and acceptable level as detailed I contract specification.

- **Multiple Forms of Abuse** - multiple forms of abuse may occur in an ongoing relationship or an abusive service setting to one person, or to more than one person at a time, making it important to look beyond single incidents or breaches in standards, to underlying dynamics and patterns of harm. Any or all of these types of abuse may be perpetrated as the result as deliberate intent and targeting of adults at risk, negligence or ignorance.