



Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults

1. Policy

Safeguarding vulnerable adults is a part of the wider role of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect specific vulnerable adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm. As adults and/or professionals or volunteers, everyone has a responsibility to safeguard vulnerable adults and promote their welfare.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of vulnerable adults – and in particular protecting them from significant harm - depends upon effective joint working between agencies and professionals that have different roles and expertise.

Some of the most vulnerable adults and those at greatest risk of social exclusion, will need coordinated help from health, education, social care, and quite possibly the voluntary sector and other agencies, including justice services.

For those vulnerable adults who are suffering, or at risk of suffering significant harm, joint working is essential, to safeguard and promote their welfare and – where necessary – to help bring to justice the perpetrators of crimes against them. All agencies and professionals should:

- be alert to potential indicators of abuse or neglect.
- be alert to the risks which individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to vulnerable adults.
- share and help to analyse information so that an assessment can be made of the individual's needs and circumstances.
- contribute to whatever actions are needed to safeguard and promote the individual's welfare.
- take part in regularly reviewing the outcomes for the individual against specific plans; and
- work co-operatively with parents and/or other carers unless this is inconsistent with ensuring the individual's safety

As one of its major activities the Charity seeks to serve the needs of vulnerable adults, promoting holistic and traditional development.

In doing so the Charity takes seriously the welfare of all vulnerable adults who are involved in its activities.

The Wellbeing Warehouse;

- aims to ensure that they are welcomed into a safe, caring environment with a happy and friendly atmosphere.
- recognises that it is the responsibility of each one of its volunteers to prevent the neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse of vulnerable adults and to report any abuse discovered or suspected.
- recognises its responsibility to implement, maintain and regularly review procedures, which are designed to prevent and to be alert to such abuse.

2. Definitions and types of abuse but not limited to

- Physical Abuse
- Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Mental Health
- Adult at risk

Physical Abuse

- Is a form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent, carer or other person fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness.

Emotional Abuse

- The persistent emotional maltreatment of a vulnerable person such as to cause severe and adverse effects on their emotional development. It may involve conveying that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving them opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate.

It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on them. These may include interactions that are beyond the vulnerable persons developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing them participating in normal social interaction.

It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber-bullying), causing the person to frequently feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of persons. Some level of emotional

abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a person, though it may occur alone.

Sexual Abuse

- Involves forcing or coercing a vulnerable person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the vulnerable person is aware of what is happening.

The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (for example rape or oral sex) and non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing.

They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving them in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a person in preparation for abuse (including via the internet).

Adult At Risk

- An Adult at risk is defined as; “someone who has needs for care and support and is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and is unable to protect themselves”. This definition would also include adults who are at risk due to their use of drugs or alcohol: either due to the effect of these substances or because they put themselves in vulnerable situations in order to obtain them.

3. Procedures

Where a young or vulnerable adult seeks out a Wellbeing Warehouse volunteer to confide in and share information about abuse, neglect or radicalisation, or talks spontaneously individually or in groups, we will:

- Listen carefully to them and not directly question him/her
- Give them time and attention
- Allow the person to give a spontaneous account; do not stop a person who is freely recalling significant events
- Make an accurate record of the information given taking care to record the timing, setting and people present, as well as what was said. Do not discard this as it may be needed at a later date as evidence
- Use the persons own words where possible. Do not include personal views or opinions or your own interpretation of what was said during the disclosure.
- Explain that they cannot promise not to speak to others about the information that has been shared. Confidentiality will be kept unless the volunteer feels that the individual making the disclose will harm themselves or others.

Reassure the person that:

- You are glad that they have told you
- That they have not done anything wrong
- Explain that help will be sought to keep them safe
- Inform them of what you are going to do next

The person should be asked NOT to repeat their account to anyone. The volunteer should not make any promises to the individual.

4. Staff awareness

All staff will be made aware of this policy as will have signed to state they have read and understood this policy.

5. Reviewing the policy and procedure

This policy and procedure will be reviewed periodically, and any updates required by a change in local or national policy will be put into place.