



Foundation
Derbyshire



Safeguarding Children

& Vulnerable Adults Policy.

Last Updated Feb 2022.



Policy Statement.

The welfare and safety of all vulnerable people is a paramount consideration for Foundation Derbyshire (“the Foundation”) and we recognise that all children, young people and vulnerable adults, whatever their age, culture, disability, gender, language, racial origin, socio-economic status, religious belief and/or sexual identity have the right to safeguarding from abuse.

As a grant-giving organisation, the Foundation does not usually come into direct contact with children and vulnerable adults. It recognises, however, that it has a key role to play in promoting their protection in our local community through the groups that we fund.

To promote welfare and safety of vulnerable people the Foundation will, through its policy of investing in our communities, fund groups that promote the physical, intellectual and social development of vulnerable people, particularly those who are disadvantaged.

The Foundation is committed to ensuring that our working practices minimise the risk of abuse of vulnerable people that use the services of our grant recipients and acknowledges that the staff, volunteers, and Trustees of the Foundation have a duty to identify abuse and report it.

Definitions.

A child is under the age of 18 (as defined in the United Nations convention on the Rights of a Child).

A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 years or over who may be unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves from harm or from being exploited.

This may include a person who:

- Is elderly and frail
- Has a mental illness
- Has dementia



- Has a physical or sensory disability
- Has a learning disability
- Has a severe physical illness
- Is a substance misuser
- Is homeless

Abuse of a vulnerable person may consist of a single act or repeated acts and may occur as a result of a failure to undertake action or appropriate care tasks. It may be an act of neglect or an omission to act, or it may occur where a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which they have not, or cannot, consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the individual.

Concerns about abuse may be raised and reported as a result of a single incident or repeated incidents of abuse. However, some issues of abuse relate to neglect and poor standards of care. They are ongoing and if ignored may result in a severe deterioration in both physical and mental health and even death.

Anyone who has concerns about poor care standards and neglect in a care setting may raise these within the service or appropriate authorities. Where these concerns relate to a vulnerable adult living in their own home, with family or with informal carers, they must be reported to the appropriate authorities.

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

- Physical abuse - including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.
- Sexual abuse - including rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the vulnerable person 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 supportive 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 physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- Discriminatory abuse - including race, sex, 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 in itself, requires specific mention simply to highlight that people 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 an acceptable level as detailed in the 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 of deliberate intent and targeting of vulnerable people, negligence or ignorance.

Implementation of this Policy.

The Chief Executive will be responsible for ensuring that this Safeguarding Vulnerable Persons Policy is implemented, monitored and audited. The policy forms part of the Foundation's policies and procedures and is thus reviewed at least every 3 years.

It is the responsibility of all staff, volunteers and Trustees:

- To be familiar with the vulnerable people's policy
- To take appropriate action in line with the policy of Foundation Derbyshire
- To declare any existing or subsequent convictions




Safeguarding and Foundation Grantmaking.

Responsibility for ensuring the safety of vulnerable people taking part in projects funded by the Foundation rests with the projects themselves.

However, as part of its assessment and decision making process, the Foundation will take reasonable steps to ensure that funded projects have suitable safeguarding vulnerable persons policies and procedures in place.

In order to keep vulnerable people safe from harm, grant applicants working with children and young people will therefore be required to provide evidence of having their own robust safeguarding vulnerable persons policy in place which will:

- Introduce reference and checking procedures to ensure that all adults working with vulnerable persons, whether paid or voluntarily, complete a disclosure application to the Disclosure and Barring Service;
- Ensure that unchecked adults and volunteers have appropriate supervision and are not left alone with vulnerable persons;
- Prevent abuse by setting out a code of conduct for adults when working with vulnerable persons;
- Encourage training of staff and volunteers and awareness of safeguarding vulnerable persons issues;
- Ensure that all staff and volunteers know how to respond appropriately if a disclosure is made;
- Have a named individual who will be responsible for keeping records and reporting concerns to Social Services;
- Establish a risk assessment policy to reduce the likelihood of physical harm to vulnerable people in the care of the group;
- Ensure that if a group does not yet have an adequate safeguarding vulnerable persons policy the Foundation will offer advice or signpost applicants to appropriate help when drawing up their appropriate safeguarding policies;
- Signpost applicants to training.



To enable groups to fully address safeguarding issues the Foundation will also ensure that:

- Where possible and appropriate, groups can request additional funding to enable them to follow best practice in safeguarding vulnerable persons.
- Groups requesting specialist support to enable them to ensure safeguarding vulnerable persons will be referred to suitable sources

Safe Recruitment Practice.

All staff and volunteers are interviewed and two references taken up. Thorough induction training is provided to ensure staff/volunteers are aware of the Foundation's core values, confidentiality, and ethos of developing and promoting good practice. Staff and volunteers are given regular supervision and training needs are assessed regularly.

The Chief Executive will ensure that newly recruited staff, Trustees and volunteers are aware of the Foundation's safeguarding vulnerable persons policy and procedures.

Procedure in the event of a disclosure.

It is important that vulnerable people are protected from abuse. All complaints, allegations or suspicions must be taken seriously.

This procedure must be followed whenever an allegation of abuse is made or when there is a suspicion that a vulnerable person has been abused.

Promises of confidentiality must not be given as this may conflict with the need to ensure the safety and welfare of the individual.

- Any suspicion, allegation or incident of abuse picked up for example by a visit, conversation by email or telephone, must be reported to the Chief Executive as soon as possible



- A full record shall be made of the nature of the allegation and any other relevant information. This must include the date, the time and the place where the alleged abuse happened, your name and the names of others present, the name of the complainant and, where different, the name of the person who has allegedly been abused, the nature of the alleged abuse, a description of any injuries observed and the account which has been given of the allegation.
- The Chief Executive shall immediately telephone and report the matter to the appropriate authorities and safeguarding vulnerable persons support agency.
- A written record of the date and time of the report shall be made, including the name and position of the person to whom the matter is reported.

NB. Under no circumstances should any member of staff or volunteer at the Foundation attempt to investigate an incident or allegation themselves.



Further Information and Reading:

The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Partnership is multi agency, led by the local authorities with the remit to steer and provide governance to the joint arrangements for safeguarding vulnerable adults. They have produced and agreed a policy and procedure, which can be found at:

<http://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/our-priorities/adults/professional-guidance/default.asp>

Further information can be found on the Derby & Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board (and policy/procedure for reporting) can be found at:

<http://www.derbysab.org.uk/>

<http://www.derbysab.org.uk/media/derby-sab/content-assets/documents/safeguarding-adults-policy-and-procedures-10-08-2015.pdf>

Additional information on safeguarding children can be found on the websites of the Derby Safeguarding Children website:

<http://www.derbyscb.org.uk/>

and the Derbyshire Safeguarding Children website:

<http://www.derbyshirescb.org.uk/>

The Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children's Board have produced and agreed a policy and procedure, which can be found at:

<http://derbyshirescbs.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html>



Foundation
Derbyshire

Unit 2, Heritage Business Centre,
Derby Road, Belper DE56 1SW

01773 525860

www.foundationderbyshire.org

hello@foundationderbyshire.org

