



1 PURPOSE

The Group has a responsibility to prevent and report concerns about the abuse, neglect and ill treatment of adults who are at risk of being harmed alongside its responsibility to protect children.

This policy reflects our commitment to work together to safeguard adults.

2 SCOPE

2.1 This policy applies to all employees, volunteers and agency/contracted workers of Children's Links and its subsidiary companies.

3 DEFINITIONS

Care Act 2014 is the primary legislation in England for the support and protection of adults. It places a legal requirement on statutory bodies to do everything they can to recognise and report quickly and appropriately to keep adults safe, and to prevent such abuse from happening in the first place.

Adult at risk - a person aged 18 or over at risk of abuse or neglect because of their needs for care and support.

Adult at risk of harm – a person aged 18 or over whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their personal characteristics and/or life circumstances

Adult in need of protection -a person aged 18 or over whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their:

- a) Personal characteristics and/or
- b) Life circumstances and/or
- c) Who is unable to protect their own well-being, property, assets, rights or other interests AND
- d) Where the action or inaction of another person is causing, or is likely to cause, them to be harmed

Vulnerable adult – a person who does not have the capacity to fully understand and make an informed decision.

Safeguarding Activity undertaken to protect adults at risk

Abuse – The ill-treatment or abuse of an adult at risk, either by inflicting harm or failing to act to prevent it. adults can be abused in a family, at a community event, in any type of organisation, by those known to them or by others.

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For further details about abuse refer to the statutory guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance#discriminatory-abuse-including-forms-of>

Prevention – How we seek to reduce the risk of abuse occurring

4 PRINCIPLES

4.1 An adult at risk can be anyone over 18, including services users, staff or volunteers. Whilst personal characteristics e.g. disability, may make a person more vulnerable it is the situation around an individual which may place them at potential risk of harm.

All adults have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse.

The interests of adults with care and support needs are always respected and upheld.

The human rights of adults with care and support needs are always respected and upheld.

A proportionate, timely, professional and ethical response is made.

The best interests of the child are paramount in all considerations about the safeguarding and protection of adults at risk.

Where concerns are identified we will communicate clearly, what we have done and will be doing to the adult at risk, unless to do so would increase the risk to them or a child.

Capacity will be assumed unless there is reason to believe that the person cannot understand.

The role of carers, friends and relatives will be carefully considered as they can provide valuable support.

Allegations against a staff member will be dealt with in line with the relevant policy.

We will support staff through management and access to training.

We follow the Fundraising Regulator's Code of Fundraising Practice with regard to not exploiting vulnerable adults.

Referrals will be made to the relevant local authority when appropriate

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5 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 5.1 The Board in consultation with the Senior Management Team have specific responsibility for effective implementation of this Policy.
- 5.2 The designated Safeguarding Lead, Julie Fowler, is responsible for monitoring and reviewing the Policy in accordance with legislation and good practice
- 5.3 Line Managers are responsible for applying this Policy fairly and consistently.
- 5.4 All employees are responsible for ensuring that they are aware of, understand and comply with this Policy and associated Procedures.
If they have any concerns then these should be raised at the earliest opportunity. If staff do not feel comfortable doing this with their line manager or are not happy with the actions taken then they should contact SMT or email trustees@childrenslinks.org.uk

6 ASSOCIATED DOCUMENTS AND POLICIES

- Fundraising policy
- Working with vulnerable adults procedure
- Safeguarding children policies and procedures

7 USEFUL INFORMATION AND LINKS

<https://www.anncrafttrust.org/resources/safeguarding-adults-legislation/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance>

Local safeguarding adult websites

8 REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed yearly as part of annual safeguarding self-assessment process.

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