

Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy and Procedures

Purpose

The welfare of vulnerable adults is a key concern the Association, and we have to provide an environment within which vulnerable adults are safe and secure.

Service Definitions

A Vulnerable Adult can be defined as a person(over 18 years) who is, or may be, in need of community care services or support due to mental illness/disorder, physical disability, age or illness and who is or maybe unable to take care of him/herself, or unable to protect him/herself against significant harm or exploitation (definition adapted from the Law Commission Report 1995).

“Abuse” can include:

- Physical – hitting, smacking, nipping, force feeding, biting
- Psychological – verbal abuse, threats to harm, humiliation, intimidation
- Sexual – rape, sexual harassment, not consenting to sexual activities
- Financial or material – theft, fraud, exploitation, possessions or benefits
- Neglect – lack of physical, social and health care
- Discriminatory – i.e. swearing and name calling on any grounds which are contrary to human rights or dignity such as a person’s disability, age, sexuality, nationality, ethnic origin, religion, gender or colour

Procedures

This policy operates alongside the following:

- Ouston Villagers Association has adopted County Durham “No Secrets” Adult Protection procedures. Staff and volunteers who suspect that a Vulnerable Adult has suffered, or is suffering harm, will refer to and follow these procedures.
- Ouston Villagers Association operates a safe recruitment policy to ensure, as far as possible, that volunteers are suitable to work with Vulnerable Adults
- Ouston Villagers Association operates a Confidentiality Policy which will be followed in respect of Vulnerable Adult protection matters
- Ouston Villagers Association follows Monitoring and Recording Procedures which ensures all information recorded is brief, factual and without interpretation, opinion or recommendation.

Training

- All volunteers should receive basic training with regular review in child protection awareness (where this applies) so that they are better to recognize signs of abuse, and are clear about what action they must take. The Chair and all Designated Persons will receive further training to assist in managing Adult Protection Policy and Procedures.

Role of Chair and Designated Person/s

Whilst all volunteers must work co-operatively, a co-ordinating responsibility rests with the Chair, or in his/her absence a Designated Person.

The duties of the Chair and designated Person are:

- To ensure all staff and volunteers are aware of the requirement to report any suspicion of child abuse to the Chair or designated person
- To report all cases of suspected abuse towards a vulnerable adult to Social Care and Health or the Police.
- The name and contact details of the Chair and Designated Person will be available from the Management Committee Members and Annual Report.

Responding to Disclosure – Advice for Volunteers

- When a vulnerable adult discloses abuse to any volunteer, the volunteer must inform the vulnerable adult that it may be necessary to share the information with someone else in order that further harm is prevented
- Listen carefully to what the vulnerable adult is saying
- Take seriously what the vulnerable adult is saying
- Do not ask detailed questions or press the vulnerable adult for more information as this may prejudice any investigation.
- Do not make judgments or say anything about the abuser.
- All allegations or suspicions of abuse towards vulnerable adults must be reported to the Chair or Designated Person

