

# Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults

Policy

SAFEGUARDING

## Policy Statement

New Roots will actively seek to identify and respond to any form of abuse or harm. We will ensure, through training and supervision, that all staff have an awareness of the need to safeguard and protect vulnerable adults. We aim to embed this into our practice and any concerns or allegations will be taken seriously. We will seek to provide advocacy and support to any person affected by any form of abuse.

The aims of adult safeguarding are to:

- Stop abuse or neglect wherever possible.
- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs.
- Safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live.
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned.
- Raise public awareness so that communities as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect.
- Provide information and support in accessible ways to help people understand the different types of abuse, how to stay safe and what to do to raise a concern about the safety or well-being of an adult.
- Address what has caused the abuse or neglect.

# Policy

## 1. Introduction

The following six principles apply to all sectors and settings and should inform the ways in which professionals and other staff work with adults:

- Empowerment – People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent. "I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process, and these directly inform what happens."
- Prevention – It is better to act before harm occurs. "I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help."
- Proportionality – The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented. "I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them and they will only get involved as much as needed."
- Protection – Support and representation for those in greatest need. "I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want."
- Partnership – Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse. "I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me."
- Accountability – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding. "I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they."

## 2. What is abuse?

Abuse is mistreatment that violates a person's human and civil rights. This can vary from treating someone with disrespect in a way which significantly affects the person's quality of life, to causing actual physical suffering.

Abuse can be:

- Physical (for example hitting, pushing, shaking, misusing medication)
- Sexual (for example rape, sexual assault)

- Domestic (for example controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation, forced marriage)
- Emotional or psychological (for example threats of harm or abandonment, humiliation, controlling, intimidation)
- Financial or material (for example theft, fraud, misuse, pressure in connection with wills of property or possessions)
- Neglectful (for example ignoring medical or physical care needs)
- Self-neglectful (for example neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene or health)
- Discriminatory (for example abuse based on race, sexuality or a person's disability)
- Modern slavery (for example forced labour, debt bondage, sexual exploitation)
- Organisational abuse (for example abuse taking place in residential/nursing homes or hospitals).

Abuse can happen anywhere: in a residential or nursing home, a hospital, in the workplace, at a day centre or educational establishment, in supported housing, in the street or in the person's own home.

### **3. Who is at risk?**

An adult at risk, i.e. vulnerable, is someone who:

- Has needs for care and support
- Is already experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from the risk of or the experience of abuse or neglect.

The adult's care and support needs should arise from, or be related to a physical or mental impairment or illness however, they do not need to meet the minimum eligibility criteria as set out in Chapter 6 of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance, issued under the Care Act 2014.