

Parent Carers Together Safeguarding and Protection of Vulnerable Adults Policy

Note: Parent Carers Together is not a safeguarding agency. Safeguarding issues will be passed to the Police or other appropriate statutory body such as BCP Council Safeguarding Adults Board.

Introduction

This document is the Policy for the Safeguarding Protection of Vulnerable Adults for Parent Carers Together which will be followed by all staff and volunteers, and followed and promoted by the Steering Group.

Parent Carers Together does not undertake activities with vulnerable adults in the absence of their parents/carers but has the opportunity to observe the vulnerable adult's welfare at family events.

A *vulnerable adult* refers to a person aged 18 years or over who might be unable to protect him or herself from significant harm or serious exploitation because of a physical or mental disability, age or illness. The first priority should always be to ensure the safety and protection of vulnerable adults. To this end it is the responsibility of all staff and volunteers to act on any suspicion or evidence of abuse or neglect and to pass on their concerns to the *responsible person*.

Parent Carers Together believes that it is always unacceptable for a vulnerable person to experience abuse of any kind and their safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone in the organisation. Parent Carers Together will work in accordance with *BCP Safeguarding Adults Board Guidelines for Safeguarding Adults*.

Definitions and signs of abuse

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons.

Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological, it may be an act of neglect or an omission to act, or it may occur when a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which he or she has not consented or cannot consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship, and it may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it.

The Department of Health in its 'No Secrets' report 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 adult 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 racist, sexist, that based on a person's disability, age or sexuality and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment.

In addition, the Care 2014 sets out the following areas which are recognised forms of abuse:

- *Domestic violence* – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so-called 'honour' based violence.
- *Modern Slavery* – encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.
- *Organisational abuse* – including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going will-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.
- *Self-neglect* – this covers a wide range of behaviour: neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

Parent Carers Together also recognises:

- *Online abuse* - The use of the internet and other social networks such as Facebook and Twitter which causes exploitation, harassment or bullying to someone who lacks the capacity to appreciate the danger.
- *Abuse by landline or mobile device or any electronic method of communication*- the use of which encourages someone to purchase goods or services, or which amounts to cold calling or a scam where the recipient is incapable of appreciating the nature of the communication and the possible consequences.

Guidance on how to respond if safeguarding is identified

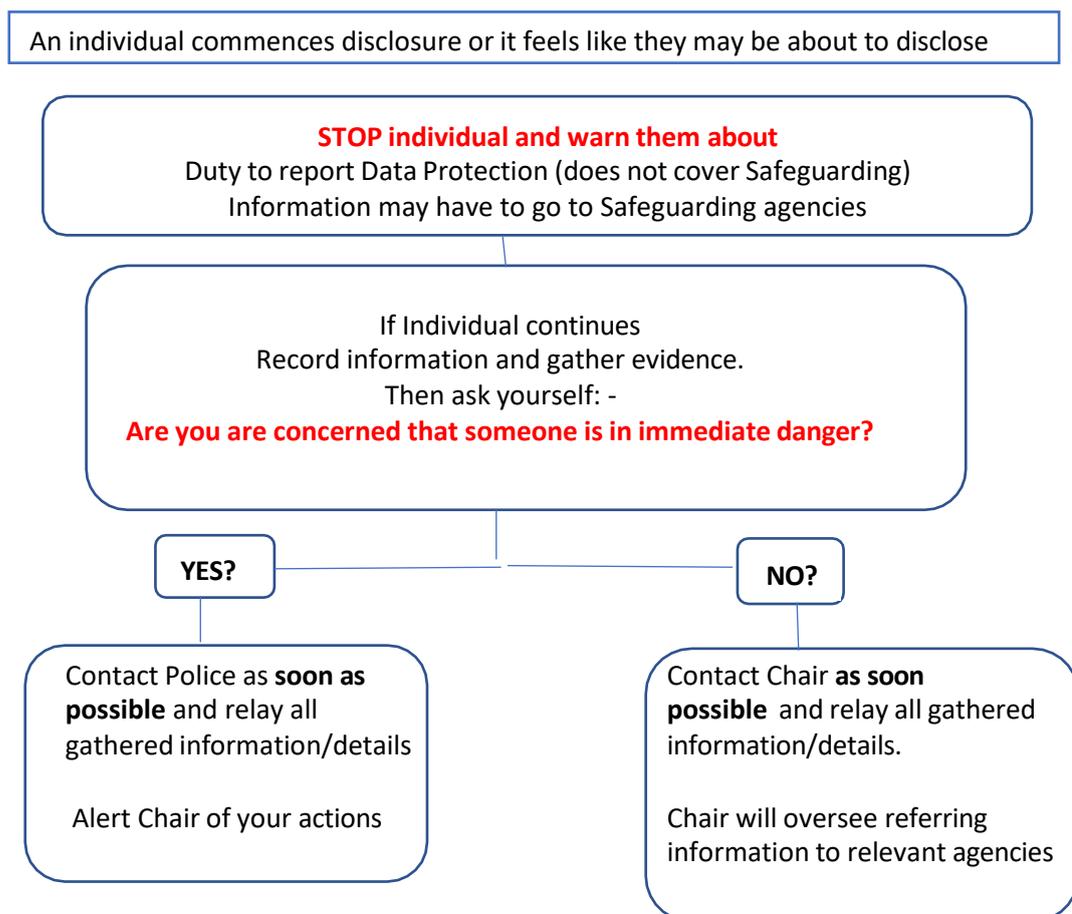
- Record your concerns and actions including relevant dates, times, details and individuals concerned.
- If you are concerned someone is in immediate danger, contact the Police straight away (but please remember to alert the Chair of your actions and relevant information). Otherwise contact the Chair with the available information, who will review the situation and where appropriate, pass the information/evidence to the most relevant Safeguarding agency.
- Parent Carers Together will keep a record of Safeguarding issues handled for a maximum of one year unless a matter is ongoing.

Training

Parent Carers Together will:

- Include guidance on the subject at all induction sessions following recruitment.
- Periodically revisit the subject during its ongoing training sessions.

Process Tree



Contact and further information

If you believe that someone is being abused contact Adult Social Care or the Police. Adult Social Care and the Police will then coordinate investigations into alleged abuse.

Contact as soon as possible:

For Bournemouth, Christchurch, and Poole

- Email: asc.contactcentre@bcpcouncil.gov.uk
- Telephone 01202 123 654
- Or Dorset Police: tel 101
- In an emergency, please call 999

Out of Hours Service

- Tel. 0300 1239895 (evenings and weekends, including bank holidays)

Policy Adopted on	June 2022
Reviewed on	
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Appendix 1 - Types of Abuse or Neglect

- *Self-neglect*– this covers a wide range of behaviour: neglecting to care for one’s personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. This could be an individual whose appearance becomes unkempt, does not wear suitable attire or has a deterioration in hygiene.
- *Domestic Abuse* – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. It also includes so called 'honour' based violence. A power imbalance may be identified between an individual and a family member. For example, an individual with Downs Syndrome may be looking quiet and withdrawn when their sibling comes to collect them from sessions, in contrast to their carer whom they greet with a smile.
- *Discriminatory* – discrimination is abuse which centres on a difference or perceived difference particularly with respect to race, gender or disability or any of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act. This could be the harassing of an individual because they are or are perceived to be transgender.
- *Organisational Abuse*– including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one’s own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation. This could be unreasonable expectations or timescales that are put upon an individual.
- *Physical Abuse* – includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions. This could be an individual intentionally striking another.
- *Sexual Abuse* – including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting. This could be an individual who sends unwanted sexually explicit text messages to an adult with learning disabilities they are involved with or vice versa.
- *Financial or Material Abuse* – including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult’s financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits. This could be someone taking equipment without consent from an individual with learning difficulties.
- *Neglect – including* ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health or social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating. This could be parent or carer not meeting the basic needs of a child such as access to food and water. Emotional or

- *Psychological Abuse* – this includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks. This could be an individual threatening another with physical harm and or persistently blaming them for things.
- *Modern Slavery* – encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. You may notice that an individual becomes less engaged and misses sessions they would normally be expected at.

Not included in the Care Act 2014 but also relevant: -

- *Cyber Bullying* - cyber bullying occurs when someone repeatedly makes fun of another person online or repeatedly picks on another person through emails or text messages, or uses online forums with the intention of harming, damaging, humiliating or isolating another person. It can be used to carry out many different types of bullying (such as racist bullying, homophobic bullying, or bullying related to special educational needs and disabilities) but instead of the perpetrator carrying out the bullying face-to-face, they use technology as a means to do it.
- *Forced Marriage* - forced marriage is a term used to describe a marriage in which one or both of the parties are married without their consent or against their will. A forced marriage differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties' consent to the assistance of a third party in identifying a spouse. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 make it a criminal offence to force someone to marry.
- *Mate Crime* - a 'mate crime' as defined by the Safety Net Project is 'when vulnerable people are befriended by members of the community who go on to exploit and take advantage of them. It may not be an illegal act but still has a negative effect on the individual.' Mate Crime is carried out by someone the adult knows and often happens in private. In recent years there have been a number of Serious Case Reviews relating to people with a learning disability who were murdered or seriously harmed by people who purported to be their friend.
- *Radicalisation* - the aim of radicalisation is to attract people to their reasoning, inspire new recruits and embed their extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals of the legitimacy of their cause. This may be directly through a relationship or through social media.
- *Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)* - Practices within some cultures. FGM is not an issue that can be decided on by personal preference – it is an illegal (Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003), extremely harmful practice and a form of child abuse and violence against women and girls. Note medical practitioners such as doctors, midwives and nurses have a statutory requirement to report and evidence and failure to do so is covered within the Serious Crime Act 2015.

Appendix 2 - Signs and indicators of abuse and neglect

Abuse can take place in any context and by all manner of perpetrators. Abuse may be inflicted by anyone known to the individual who they come into contact with or family members, workers, volunteers or others they come into contact with who may suspect that the person is being abused or neglected in a different setting e.g. at a club or group they attend. There are many signs and indicators that may suggest someone is being abused or neglected, these include but are not limited to: -

- Unexplained bruises or injuries – or lack of medical attention when an injury is present.
- Person has belongings or money going missing.
- Person is not attending/no longer enjoying their sessions.
- Someone losing or gaining weight/an unkempt appearance.
- A change in the behaviour or confidence of a person.
- They may self-harm.
- They may have a fear of a particular group or individual.
- They may tell you/another person they are being abused – i.e. a disclosure