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## **Ferryhill LADDER Centre Safeguarding Adults Policy Statement**

### **Definitions**

Who is a vulnerable adult?

A Vulnerable Adult is a person who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

What is abuse?

- Physical abuse - may include hitting, punching, slapping, kicking, pinching or scratching.
- Psychological abuse - may include intimidation e.g. threats of physical harm, shouting, swearing, name calling, racist comments, deprived of normal activities or contact, humiliation, indifference, emotional blackmail.
- Sexual Abuse - includes rape, sexual assault, unwanted sexual acts, and sexual acts with person unable to give consent, subject to indecent exposure or teasing or innuendo.
- Financial or material abuse - theft, fraud, extortion, gaining access to persons, funds or possessions.
- Neglect and acts of omission - deliberate withholding of, or unintentional failure to provide care and support.
- Discriminatory abuse - oppressive and prejudicial attitudes towards a person's disability, age, race religion sexual orientations.
- Multiple or institutional abuse which includes an abusive regime or culture, ignoring a person's needs and wishes, misuse of professional power and control.

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all vulnerable adults who we come into contact with have a positive and enjoyable experience and the highest degree of safety and protection that we are able to provide. We comply with No Secrets 2000, Safeguarding Adults 2005 and Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and strive to protect adults at risk at all times.

### **Statement of Policy**

- All LADDER Centre staff (full time, part time, volunteers & placements) will report any suspicions, allegations or witnessing or any type of abuse to an adult at risk to their manager.
- All staff must have an accessible copy of their Local Safeguarding Adults Procedures and all staff must be aware of these procedures and adhere to them.
- All accusations, disclosures and incidents will be taken seriously and acted on immediately.

### **Procedures**



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This applies to actual or suspected incidents of abuse both past and present where:

- Disclosures of abuse are made by service users:
- Observations of abuse are made;
- A third party makes a disclosure about another individual.
- Allegations of abuse are made against a staff member, volunteer, sessional worker or another service user or professional.

If an **adult at risk** is in imminent danger staff, volunteers and placements are to take immediate action by calling 999 to keep an **adult at risk** safe.

#### Staff/Volunteers/Placements

- No staff are to investigate any accusation or incident
- If the situation is not an emergency staff are to notify their designated safeguarding officer Kath Merrington
- Staff are then to call social care direct or the police dependant on the guidance from the safeguarding officer.
- Staff are then complete an incident form including the outcome if known.

#### Management/Directors

- All appropriate staff will be trained in Adult Safeguarding issues and procedures to ensure they know their roles and responsibilities.
- All aspects of this policy will be kept up to date and in line with current legislation.
- Contact telephone numbers for Adult Safeguarding will be posted and updated as required
- Safeguarding will be part of Team Meetings, 1:1's and Directors Meetings.

All service users must be informed that confidentiality cannot be guaranteed if information suggests that a person is being abused in some way, as Ferryhill LADDER Centre has an obligation to safeguard all **adults at risk** and this information may need to be passed on to other authorities.

Where an **adult at risk** makes an allegation against a member of Ferryhill Ladder Centre staff, those concerns will be reported immediately to Manager or Directors, who will take appropriate action.

#### Review

REVIEW DATE

SIGNED

NEXT REVIEW DUE