

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults



And remember that whilst safeguarding vulnerable adults from abuse is vital, we also need to actively support the rights of the individual to lead their life based on personal choice, promoting empowerment and wellbeing through the opportunities we provide within our organisations.

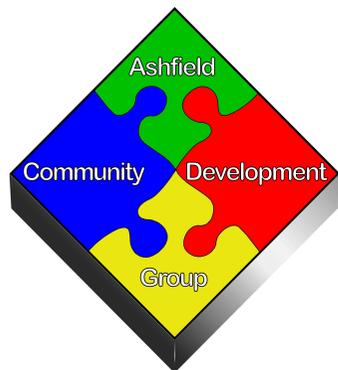
Who to contact:

If someone is in immediate danger, call 101.

If you are concerned about an individual or situation and want to discuss or report it, you can call the Safeguarding Team at Nottinghamshire County Council: 0115 977 3911 - 0300 500 80 80

This leaflet can also be downloaded from:

<http://www.ashfield.gov.uk/media/3200/10-safeguarding-vulnerable-adults- rev-feb-2015 .pdf>



This advice leaflet has been compiled by Ashfield Community Development Group (ACDG).

For details of ACDG members offering support, please refer to leaflet "i".

Introduction

Everyone has a right to live their lives free from violence and abuse, and feel safe from harm.

Every organisation has a responsibility to safeguard vulnerable adults who are involved with their organisation or its activities.

Safeguarding is protecting vulnerable people from harm, and taking a proactive approach to preventing abuse from happening.

Who are vulnerable adults?

A vulnerable adult is someone over 18 who may be vulnerable because they are unable to:

- take care of themselves
- protect themselves from harm, abuse, or exploitation
- speak out for themselves

This may be due to mental health issues, having a disability or illness, being elderly, or having a sensory impairment, for example.

What is abuse?

“Abuse is a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by another person or persons” (No Secrets, Department of Health, 2000).

Types of abuse.

Psychological or emotional abuse – such as threats or humiliation.

Discriminatory abuse – any form of abuse based on discrimination because of a person's race, gender, age, disability, sexual orientation etc. This can be called bullying or Hate Crime.

Physical abuse – such as hitting, slapping, rough handling, misuse of medication, misuse of restraint, or anything else which causes someone physical harm.

Sexual abuse – making someone carry out a sexual act they have not or cannot consent to.

Financial or material abuse – such as theft of money or possessions, misuse of someone's benefits etc.

Neglect – such as a carer not meeting a person's care or health needs.

Who abuses?

Abuse can be carried out by anyone - relatives, partners, friends, care workers, or strangers. It can happen anywhere.

Be prepared

***You are not responsible for deciding if abuse is happening.
But you are responsible for making sure action is taken if
you are concerned about someone.***

It is important that your organisation has ‘Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults’ policies and procedures in place, and that everyone understands them.

A Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy should include:

- A statement of commitment to protecting vulnerable adults
- A definition of who you mean
- Information about what you will do to protect vulnerable adults.

Procedures should be written to make sure everyone knows what to do if they are concerned about someone.

For help with writing a Vulnerable Adults Policy, contact one of the organisations on the contact sheet.

You will also need to carry out enhanced DBS checks, to ensure you are not employing someone (paid, or as a volunteer) who has been convicted of abusing someone. For more information, see the information sheet on DBS checks.

You might want to appoint a named person to update and monitor your Vulnerable Adults Policy, be responsible for organising DBS checks and be a point of contact for people.