



Kimberley Town Council

Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy

Adopted by Full Council on 25th April 2024 TC/24/018

Introduction

Whilst abuse and neglect are everyone's business, local authorities have the lead role in co-ordinating the response to safeguarding adults.

Safeguarding adults means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. This Policy is designed to describe what Kimberley Town Council's role is in supporting adults who may be at risk.

Principally our role is to recognise and respond to cases of apparent abuse and neglect.

Protecting adults at risk is the duty of all staff including paid and unpaid staff, councillors, contractors and anyone who fulfils a role within Kimberley Town Council.

To do this we need to understand:

- What abuse and neglect are
- Who may be at risk
- How we may be alerted to the possibility of historic or current abuse
- How we record information
- How we approach confidentiality when it comes to alerting the appropriate authorities
- How and to whom we report suspected abuse

The aim of Kimberley Town Council's Safeguarding Adults Policy, Procedure and Guidance is to ensure:

- The needs and interests of adults at risk are respected and upheld
- The human rights of adults at risk are respected and upheld
- A proportionate, timely, professional and ethical response is made to any adult at risk who may be experiencing abuse

- All decisions and actions are taken in line with the principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005
- The safeguarding clauses within the Care Act 2014 are adhered to.

What is adult abuse and neglect?

The Care act includes the definitions of abuse and neglect already in use and expands the definition significantly. For safeguarding enquires to take place there does not have to be an “alleged perpetrator” and there is no longer a “significant harm” threshold.

Categories of abuse:

- Financial – theft, fraud, undue pressure, misuse of property, possessions or benefits, dishonest gain of property, possessions or benefits.
- Physical – slapping, pushing, kicking or other forms of violence; misuse of medication (for example increasing dosage to make someone drowsy); inappropriate punishments (for example, not giving someone a meal because they have been ‘bad’).
- Sexual – rape; sexual assault; sexual acts without consent (this includes if a pressure is not able to give consent or the abuser used pressure).
- Psychological – emotional abuse; threats of harm, restraint or abandonment; refusing contact with other people; intimidation; threats to someone’s liberty.
- Neglect and acts of omission – ignoring the person’s medical or physical care needs; failing to get healthcare or social care; withholding medication, food or heating.
- Physical Self-neglect
- Financial Modern Slavery
- Sexual Domestic abuse
- Neglect and acts of omission Exploitation
- Psychological Discrimination
- Organisational (Institutional)

Adults at risk (previously known as vulnerable adults):

Under the Care Act, safeguarding duties for local authorities apply to an adult aged 18 and over who:

- Has needs for care and support even if they do not have care services
- And is experiencing or is at risk of abuse and neglect
- And as a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from the risk or experience of abuse and neglect.

What is a “Care and Support Need”?

“The adult’s needs arise from or are related to a physical or mental impairment or illness. Local authorities must consider... if the adult has a condition as a result of either physical, mental, sensory, learning or cognitive disabilities or illnesses, substance misuse or brain injury... formal diagnosis of the condition should not be required”

(Care Act statutory guidance)

Responsibilities:

All staff, councillors and volunteers have a duty of care to recognise the signs of abuse and to take action where it is reported. Our policy and procedures commit staff, councillors and volunteers to responding promptly to all allegations or suspicions of abuse. Kimberley Town Council's designated safeguarding lead (the Clerk) will ensure that our Safeguarding Policy and Procedures are implemented consistently across the organisation.

Any member of staff, councillor, or volunteer should approach the DSL with any concerns of abuse. They should then:

- Make a safeguarding referral to Nottinghamshire County Council's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) by calling 0300 500 80 90
- Consider whether the Police should be informed and contact them if required
- Document all actions, conversations and reasons for decisions made,
- Pass documentation of abuse related events to the DSL

Definitions:

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 may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it'. (Department of Health, March 2000) .