

Safeguarding Adults Policy

Subject	Safeguarding adults
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1. Introduction

To be read in conjunction with the:

1. [Safeguarding Adults Referral Pathway](#) and
2. [Safeguarding Risk Management Guidance](#)

The Helen Bamber Foundation is committed to protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. This policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Helen Bamber Foundation in working together in promoting the adult's welfare and safeguarding them from abuse and neglect. Employees, trustees and volunteers should be made aware of how this policy can be accessed.

This policy and related procedures are applicable to the Chief Executive Officer, trustees, employees and volunteers.

The Care Act Guidance (Care and Support Statutory Guidance April 2021) at 14.7 defines safeguarding as:

"Protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action."

The purpose of this policy statement is:

- To protect all adults at risk from harm.
- To provide staff and volunteers, as well as adults at risk and their families and communities, with the overarching principles that guide our approach to adult protection.

Adults at risk are people over 18 years of age who are getting or may need help and services to live in the community. Adults at risk may be unable to take care of themselves and unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation by other people.

Safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) **and;**
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect; **and;**
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

The Care Act 2014 makes it clear that abuse of adult's links to circumstances rather than the characteristics of the people experiencing the harm.

Categories of abuse:

- physical
- financial
- sexual
- psychological
- discriminatory
- emotional
- neglect

- Domestic
- Modern slavery
- Organizational or institutional

Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and can be perpetuated by anyone. When abuse takes place, it needs to be dealt with swiftly and effectively, in ways which are proportionate to the issues, and where the adult in need of protection has as much control over the decision-making process as possible. All staff, volunteers and trustees of the Helen Bamber Foundation have a duty to identify abuse and report it.

Safeguarding means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

There are six key principles that underpin all safeguarding work:

Empowerment: People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent. "I am asked what I want as a safeguarding outcome, and this directly informs what happens."

Prevention: It is better to take action 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, 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. The Mental Capacity Act 2005

Mental capacity should always be considered in responding to safeguarding concerns.

The following statutory principles apply:

1. Assume a person has capacity unless it is proved otherwise
2. Take all practicable steps to enable people to make their own decisions
3. Do not assume incapacity simply because someone makes an unwise decision
4. Always act, or decide, for a person without capacity in their best interests
5. Carefully consider actions to ensure the least restrictive option is taken

3. Rights & Responsibilities

Organisational Responsibilities of the Helen Bamber Foundation

- To ensure that all staff, volunteers and trustees are aware of adults' potential need for protection.
- To elicit the adult's consent to participation in safeguarding conversations and to establish the person's desired outcomes.
- To notify the appropriate agencies if abuse is identified or suspected and consent (excepting cases of public or vital interest) is provided by the adult
- To support and where possible secure the safety of individuals and ensure that all referrals to services have full information in relation to identified risk and vulnerability.
- To DBS check all staff and volunteers that have access to or work with adults at risk.

- To appoint a Safeguarding Adults Protection Lead (SAPL) who will oversee the implementation of the Policy and ensure that appropriate monitoring and audit takes place.

Individual Responsibilities of all Helen Bamber Foundation Staff, Volunteers and Trustees

- To be familiar with the Safeguarding Adults Protection Policy and the Safeguarding Adults referral pathway
- To take appropriate action in line with the policies of the Helen Bamber Foundation.
- To declare any existing or subsequent convictions.

Support for those who report abuse

All those making a complaint or allegation or expressing concern, whether they are staff, volunteers, trustees, clients, carers or members of the public, should be reassured that:

- They will be taken seriously
- Their comments will usually be treated confidentially, but their concerns may be shared with the appropriate authorities if they or others are at significant risk.

Confidentiality issues

All staff, volunteers and trustees should be aware that in circumstances where there is serious risk of harm to self or others, confidentiality may be broken. Where possible, consent for disclosure should be sought from the client, but where this is not possible, relevant authorities should be contacted even without consent.

Where a staff member is unsure about whether the circumstances are at a threshold where confidentiality can be broken without consent, advice should be sought from the SAPL, their line manager, clinical lead, or an Executive Director.

The Adult at risk has the right:

- To be made aware of this policy
- To have alleged incidents recognised and taken seriously
- To receive fair and respectful treatment throughout
- To be involved in any process as appropriate, and including their desired outcomes in the conversation
- To receive information about the outcome

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Executive Director's Signature: _____

