



SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

IF YOU FEEL A ADULT IS AT RISK FROM THEMSEVES AND OR SOMEONE ELSE CALL ADULT SAFEGARDING TEAM 0121 569 2266

IF THEY ARE AT RISK OF HARM TO THE PUBLIC CALL THE POLICE 111 OR IF SEVER 999

Black Country Basketball Club C.I.C. Safeguarding Policy

AIM

1.1 The purpose of this policy is to outline the duty and responsibility of staff, volunteers, and trustees working on behalf of Black Country Basketball Club C.I.C. in relation to safeguarding vulnerable adults.

1.2 All adults have the right to be safe from harm and must be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

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

OBJECTIVES

2.1 To explain the responsibilities the organization and its staff, volunteers, and trustees have in respect of vulnerable adult protection.

2.2 To provide staff with an overview of vulnerable adult protection.

2.3 To provide a clear procedure that will be implemented where vulnerable adult protection issues arise.

CONTEXT

3.1 For the purpose of this policy, 'adult' means a person aged 18 years or over.

3.2 What do we mean by abuse?

3.2.1 Abuse of a vulnerable adult may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may occur as a result of a failure to undertake action or appropriate care tasks. It may be an act of neglect or an omission to act, or it may occur where a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which they have not, or cannot, consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the individual.

3.2.2 Concerns about abuse may be raised and reported to the social services agency as a result of a single incident or repeated incidents of abuse. However, for some clients, the issues of abuse relate to neglect and poor standards of care. They are ongoing and, if ignored, may result in a severe deterioration in both physical and mental health and even death.

3.2.3 Anyone who has concerns about poor care standards and neglect in a care setting may raise these within the service, with the regulatory body, and/or with the social services agency. Adult safeguarding board 0121 569 2266.

3.2.4 Where these concerns relate to a vulnerable adult living in their own home, is at risk of homelessness, with family, or with informal carers, they must be reported to the social services agency. These reports must be addressed through the adult protection process, and a risk assessment must be undertaken to determine an appropriate response to reduce or remove the risk.

3.3 Who is included under the heading 'vulnerable adult?'

3.3.1 An adult (a person aged 18 or over) 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 take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.'
(Definition from 'No Secrets' March 2000 Department of Health)

3.3.2 This could include people with learning disabilities, mental health problems, older people, and people with a physical disability or impairment. It is important to include people whose condition and subsequent vulnerability fluctuates. It may include an individual who may be vulnerable as a consequence of their role as a carer in relation to any of the above.

3.3.3 It may also include victims of domestic abuse, hate crime, homelessness, and antisocial abuse behavior. The person's need for additional support to protect themselves may be increased when complicated by additional factors, such as physical frailty or chronic illness, sensory impairment, challenging behavior, drug or alcohol problems, social or emotional problems, poverty, or homelessness.

3.3.4 Many vulnerable adults may not realize that they are being abused. For instance, an elderly person, accepting that they are dependent on their family, may feel that they must tolerate losing control of their finances or their physical environment. They may be reluctant to assert themselves for fear of upsetting their carers or making the situation worse.

3.3.5 It is important to consider the meaning of 'Significant Harm.' The Law Commission, in its consultation document 'Who Decides,' issued in Dec 1997 suggested that 'harm' must be taken to include not only ill-treatment (including sexual abuse and forms of ill-treatment which are not physical), but also 'the impairment of, or an avoidable deterioration in, physical or mental health; and the impairment of physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioral development.'

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

4.1 Human Rights Act 1998, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, and Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998.

4.2 Data Protection Act 1998, Freedom of Information Act 2000, Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards, Code of Practice 2008.

4.3 The Mental Capacity Act 2005, covering England and Wales, provides a statutory framework for people who lack capacity to make decisions for themselves, or who have capacity and want to make preparations for a time when they may lack capacity in the future. It sets out who can take decisions, in which situations, and how they must go about this.

4.4 The Human Rights Act 1998 gives legal effect in the UK to the fundamental rights and freedoms contained in the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR).

4.5 The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 (PIDA) created a framework for whistleblowing across the private, public, and voluntary sectors. The Act provides almost every individual in the workplace with protection from victimization where they raise genuine concerns about malpractice in accordance with the Act's provisions.

THE ROLE OF STAFF, VOLUNTEERS, AND TRUSTEES

5.1 All staff, volunteers, and trustees working on behalf of the organization have a duty to promote the welfare and safety of vulnerable adults.

5.2 Staff, volunteers, and trustees may receive disclosures of abuse and observe vulnerable adults who are at risk. This policy will enable staff/volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific adult protection issues.

TYPES OF ABUSE

6.1 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.

6.2 Abuse can occur in any relationship and it may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it.

6.3 The Department of Health in its 'No Secrets' 2000 report suggests the following as the main types of abuse:

6.3.1 Physical abuse - including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.

6.3.2 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.

6.3.3 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.

6.3.4 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.

6.3.5 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.

6.3.6 Discriminatory abuse - including race, sex, culture, religion, politics, that is based on a person's disability, age, or sexuality and other forms of harassment, slurs, or similar treatment, hate crime.

6.3.7 Institutional abuse - Institutional abuse, although not a separate category of abuse in itself, requires specific mention simply to highlight that adults placed in any kind of care home or daycare establishment are potentially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation. This can be especially so when care standards and practices fall below an acceptable level as detailed in the contract specification.

6.3.8 Multiple forms of abuse - Multiple forms of abuse may occur in an ongoing relationship or an abusive service setting to one person, or to more than one person at a time, making it important to look beyond single incidents or breaches in standards, to underlying dynamics and patterns of harm. Any or all of these types of abuse may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent and targeting of vulnerable people, negligence, or ignorance.

6.4 Domestic abuse

6.4.1 Home Office Definition 2004: 'Any incident of threatening behavior, violence, or abuse (psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional) between adults who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members, regardless of gender or sexuality.'

6.4.2 Women's Aid Definition: 'Domestic violence is physical, sexual, psychological, or financial violence that takes place within an intimate or family-type relationship and that forms a pattern of coercive and controlling behavior. This can also include forced marriage and so-called "honour crimes". Domestic violence may include a range of abusive behaviors, not all of which are in themselves inherently "violent".'

6.4.3 Most research suggests that domestic violence occurs in all sections of society irrespective of race, culture, nationality, religion, sexuality, disability, age, class, or educational level.

6.4.4 Both definitions would therefore also include incidents where extended family members may condone or share in the pattern of abuse e.g. forced marriage, female genital mutilation, and crimes rationalized as punishing women for bringing 'dishonour' to the family.

6.4.5 It is important to recognize that vulnerable adults in abusive relationships, including forced marriages, may have complex, overlapping needs, and that an abuse of trust may also be a key factor.

PROCEDURES

7.1 Black Country Basketball Club C.I.C. promotes the independence of adults and their right to live free from abuse and neglect, and will:

7.1.1 Ensure staff and volunteers are aware of the Adult Safeguarding Board contact information: 0121 569 2266.

7.1.2 Encourage adults to speak up if they feel they are in an abusive situation.

7.1.3 Provide support to those who are victims of abuse.

7.1.4 Report all concerns and disclosures to the appropriate authorities.

7.2 Staff, volunteers, and trustees should also be aware of the following procedures:

7.2.1 Any suspicion, allegation, or incident of abuse must be reported immediately to a safeguarding officer. If you do not have immediate access to a safeguarding officer, then contact Adult Safeguarding Board.

7.2.2 Staff and volunteers should not conduct their own investigations but should document concerns and report them to a safeguarding officer.

7.2.3 All reports will be treated with the utmost confidentiality and shared only with those who need to know in order to take appropriate action.

REVIEW

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains compliant with legislation and best practices.

This is a comprehensive safeguarding policy tailored for Black Country Basketball Club C.I.C. It outlines the definitions, types of abuse, responsibilities, and procedures for safeguarding vulnerable adults, aligning with relevant legislation and best practices.