

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

Parent Views Count has a commitment to safeguarding children, young people and adults we come in contact with. This policy defines ‘vulnerable adult’ and gives guidance on responding to suspicions of any type of abuse towards vulnerable adults. This policy has been adopted from the Birmingham City Council Safeguarding Adults Policies and Procedures.

A vulnerable adult is: a person who needs extra support for example because they are elderly or may have a learning disability, physical disability, sensory impairment, mental health problem and who are unable to protect themselves against harm and abuse. It may be some one who is usually able to manage but at some stage may not be able to do so because of an accident or illness.

Adult abuse can happen to anyone who is over 18. Adult abuse is when something is said or done to a vulnerable adult that makes them feel upset, hurt or frightened. Abuse is not always intentional but it causes harm so something should be done to stop it from happening again.

“No Secrets (DoH 2000)” defines abuse as follows:

“Abuse is a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by any other person or persons. Abuse may consist of single 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, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it.”

Types of abuse

- **Physical abuse:** Includes hitting, pushing, scalding, hair pulling, shaking, pinching, kicking, misuse of medicines, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.
- **Sexual abuse:** Includes rape and sexual assault, sexual acts to which the adult has not consented, or could not consent to, or was pressured into consenting.
- **Emotional abuse:** Includes emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, bullying, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or being prevented/ withdrawn from receiving services or supportive networks.
- **Financial abuse:** Includes theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- **Neglect and Acts of Omission:** Includes not meeting appropriate medical or physical care needs, or withholding the necessities of life such as food, heating and medicines which causes the person to suffer.

- Discriminatory Abuse: Includes any abuse or harassment because of a person's race, gender, sexuality, disability or age.
- Institutional Abuse: This includes abuse as result of persistently poor care or a rigid and oppressive regime in a care setting.

Abuse can happen anywhere:

- at home
- in hospital
- in residential, nursing, respite or rehabilitation accommodation
- in day centres
- at college
- in the workplace
- in any public place.

Who could cause abuse?

It may be caused by anyone who has power over the person. The person responsible for the abuse is very often well known to the person being abused and could be; a spouse; partner; son; daughter; relative; friend; carer or neighbour; a paid carer or volunteer; a health worker; social care or other worker; another resident or service user; an occasional visitor or someone who is providing a service. It can be caused by a person deliberately intending to harm, failing to take the right action or through their ignorance. It can involve one or a number of people.

What to do if you suspect abuse?

If you are worried about possible adult abuse, contact the local Adults and Communities Office (see below), or if out of hours the Emergency Duty Team on **0121 675 4806**. In an emergency contact the police on **999**. If you think there has been a crime contact West Midlands Police straight away on **0845 113 5000**.

Adults and Communities Local Offices and Contact Information

East Birmingham		
250 Reservoir Road Erdington B23 6DE 0121 303 1234 Older Adults (over 65) enquiries	Silvermere Centre Silvermere Road Sheldon B26 3XA 0121 303 6541 Older Adults (over 65) enquiries	St Peter's College Bridge Road Saltley B8 3TE 0121 303 1234 All Adults enquiries
Heart of Birmingham		
Sycamore Centre Sycamore Road Aston	CIBA Building 146 Hagley Rd, Edgbaston,	

Birmingham B6 5UH 0121 303 1234 Older Adults (over 65) enquiries	Birmingham, B16 9NX 0121 303 3335 Adults 18 - 64	
North Birmingham		
Tamebridge House Aldridge Road Perry Barr B42 2TY (Telephone and Postal Enquires only) 0121 303 1234 Fax: 0121 303 0381 Referrals only	The Council House King Edward's Square Sutton Coldfield B73 6AN 0121 303 1234 Older Adults (over 65) enquiries	
South Birmingham		
Attwood House 72 High Street Harborne Birmingham B17 9NJ 0121 303 1234 Older Adults (over 65) and Physical Disabilities enquiries	1102 Bristol Road South Northfield Birmingham B31 2RE 0121 303 1234 Older Adults (over 65) enquiries	Windsor House 11a High Street Kings Heath Birmingham B14 7BB 0121 303 1234 Older Adults (over 65) enquiries

For Learning Disabilities enquiries anywhere in the city

Bierton Road Centre
25 Bierton Road
Yardley Birmingham
B25 8PY
0121 303 2202

Community Care teams in hospitals (for social worker advice)

City Hospital - 0121 507 4623 / 4622 / 4626
Good Hope Hospital - 0121 378 6108
Heartlands Hospital - 0121 424 1622
Moseley Hall Hospital - 0121 442 3509
Queen Elizabeth Hospital - 0121 627 2350
Queen Elizabeth Psychiatric Hospital - 0121 678 2131 (Over65 Mental Health enquiries)
Royal Orthopaedic Hospital - 0121 685 4194
Selly Oak Hospital - 0121 627 8677
West Heath Hospital - 0121 627 8237

Birmingham City Council Safeguarding Adults Policies and Procedures: For further information, forms and leaflets visit the following website.

www.birmingham.gov.uk/cs/Satellite/safeguardingadults.bcc?packedargs=website%3D1&rendermode=live

This policy works in corporation with:- Child Protection Statement (1), Complaints Form, Complaints Policy, Confidentiality and Data Protection Statement, Constitution, Expenses Procedures, Health & Safety Rules, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy, Interim Terms of Reference, Mission Statement and Promoting Equality/Valuing Diversity Safeguarding Procedure.

Parent Views Count 21.05.2010

Signed: Nazia Nazir (Joint Chair)

Signed: Kristin Sanders (Joint Chair)

Date: 7th July 2010