

HALESWORTH & DISTRICT U3A

Safeguarding Policy and Procedure

Policy, Procedure and Appendices adopted by Halesworth & District u3a Executive Committee on 7th January 2022

Signed:

Sharon Collins, Secretary

POLICY STATEMENT

This policy applies to all Halesworth and District u3a members. Whilst we hope never to encounter circumstances that require us to use the policy, nevertheless we believe it is important that we all maintain awareness of vulnerabilities and the need for vigilance during activities offered by the u3a. The Policy and the associated procedure is provided to enable the u3a Committee to act appropriately should instances or allegations of abuse or neglect come to their attention.

The u3a recognises that some people are potentially at risk of abuse and neglect. Abuse and neglect can take place in a person's own home, in the home of a carer, family member or friend, and within any form of institution e.g. hospitals, residential care or nursing home.

Where abuse or neglect is suspected the u3a will aim to respond to the situation in a way which is caring, effective and enabling. The u3a recognises that abuse and neglect can be perpetrated by volunteers, other users of services, relatives, friends and neighbours, and also acknowledges that the reasons for abuse and neglect occurring may not be fully understood and are likely to vary with each incident, often dependant on the specific risk factors in the situation.

The u3a will neither condone nor tolerate any form of abuse or neglect and believes that all people should be able and, where necessary be enabled, to live in an environment which is safe.

In all situations, Halesworth and District u3a believes that everyone is entitled to:

- privacy
- be treated with dignity and respect
- lead an independent life and to be enabled to do so
- choose how they live their lives
- the protection of the law
- have their human and civil rights upheld regardless of ethnic origin, gender, sexuality, impairment or disability, age, religious or cultural background.

It is not appropriate for the u3a to take the lead role in any Safeguarding Enquiry under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 but should refer this to Suffolk County Council- Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

The responsibility for periodically monitoring the implementation of this policy and procedure rests with the u3a Executive Committee

PROCEDURE

1. Halesworth & District u3a recognises that it has a responsibility to ensure that its committee and group coordinators understand this policy.
2. The u3a will, to the best of its ability, offer appropriate support to the alleged victims and the alleged perpetrators of any abuse, as well as to any volunteer who becomes aware of the abuse, in so far as this does not compromise any Safeguarding Enquiry or investigation into the allegation or place other adults at risk.
3. While the u3a will make every effort to respect the confidentiality of any information that is disclosed under this Policy and Procedure, this cannot be guaranteed. Information will be recorded and stored securely in accordance with GDP Regulations 2018 but confidentiality is not absolute and information may have to be shared, on a 'need to know' basis, in order facilitate the investigation of a serious crime an/or to prevent:
 - danger to a person's life
 - danger to a person's health
 - danger to others
 - danger to the community
4. This Policy, Procedure and Appendices will be reviewed as necessary once adopted.

Courses of Action

- If the committee becomes aware of possible or actual abuse or neglect, it should ensure that the safety of the adult at risk is secured as a first priority.
- Any committee member who becomes aware of possible or actual abuse should, as soon as possible, record the details of the abuse using SAP1, see Appendix 1. (This is the information-sharing form required by the Suffolk safeguarding authorities.) The rest of the committee should be advised as soon as possible that there is a concern.
- The committee, having been advised of the possible or actual abuse, should satisfy themselves that the adult at risk is safe, and that the alleged perpetrator, if known, does not pose a threat to any other adult at risk.
- The committee, working with Suffolk MASH Consultation Line 0345 606 1499 will decide whether or not to refer the possible or actual abuse to the local authority and/or the Police.

When a crime may have been committed, the Police must be contacted as soon as possible. If the decision is to not refer, the reasons for this must be recorded on form SAP1.

- As far as possible, the adult at risk's wishes will be respected as to whether or not to refer any concerns to the local authority as a Safeguarding Enquiry under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014. However, it may be necessary to override these in the best interests of other adults at risk.
- The committee should then complete SAP1. Completed SAP1s will be held in a designated file for a minimum of 2 years from the date of the last completed SAP1 on the adult at risk.
- In case of immediate danger or concern a phone referral should be made by telephoning the emergency services via 999 or Customer First on 0808 800 4005
- See Appendix 2 for guidance on how to proceed if someone discloses abuse.
- Confidentiality will be adhered to at all times: therefore the contents of the SAP1 form will not be provided to any third parties unless required by the police or local authority in connection with any investigation arising from the u3a's referral.

Appendix 1

FORM SAP1

CONFIDENTIAL

SAFEGUARDING ADULT DISCLOSURE/SUSPICION RECORDING PROFORMA

Adult at Risk			
Surname:		Forename:	
Gender:	Ethnicity:	Date of Birth:	Marital Status:
Home address:			
Post Code:			
Disclosure/Suspicion Date and Time:		Location of Disclosure/Suspicion:	
Who Received Disclosure/Had Suspicion:			
Type of Alleged Abuse:		Location of Alleged Abuse:	
Description of Alleged Abuse:			
Name:			
Signature:		Post:	Date:

Committee Member informed:		
Name:	Post:	Date & Time:
Committee decision:		

	No further action:	Referral on:
	Yes/No	Yes/No
Date		
Action Date:		
Reason for Decision:		
Date Record to be Destroyed:		
Chairman Signature:	Date:	Time:

Information contained in this document should only be used for the purposes of implementing and monitoring Halesworth & District u3a's Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. The information must not be copied, transmitted or in any way divulged without the permission of Halesworth & District u3a.

Appendix 2: GUIDANCE ON DEALING WITH DISCLOSURE

If someone discloses abuse to you:

Do:

- Stay calm and try not to show shock or disbelief
- Listen carefully to what they are saying
- Be sympathetic (I'm sorry that this has happened to you')
- Be aware of the possibility that medical evidence might be needed
- Tell the person that:
 - They did the right thing to tell you
 - You are treating the information seriously.
 - You are going to inform the appropriate person
 - You/ will take steps to protect and support them
- Record and report the disclosure in line with the Procedure

Do Not:

- Press the person for more details; this will be done at a later date
- Stop someone who is freely recalling significant events (Don't say 'hold on, we'll come back to that later'; they may not tell you or anybody else again)
- Promise to keep secrets: you cannot keep this kind of information to yourself
- Make promises you cannot keep (Such as 'This will never happen to you again')
- Contact the alleged abuser
- Be judgemental
- Pass on the information other than to those with a legitimate 'need-to-know' under this Policy and Procedure

In your record of the disclosure: You should aim to:

- Note what people actually said, using their own words and phrases
- Describe the circumstances in which the disclosure came about
- Note the setting and anyone else who was there at the time of the abuse or the disclosure
- Separate factual information from your own and others' opinions
- Use pen or biro with black ink so that the report can be photocopied if needed

And be aware that your report may be required later as part of a legal action or disciplinary procedure.

Appendix 3 Key Definitions:

1. **Adult at risk:**

is any person, who is over 18 years of age and who has need for care and support, is experiencing, or is at risk of abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or risk of it.

2. **Abuse:**

is the “violation of a person’s human and civil rights by any other person(s). It may be a single or repeated act(s), physical, verbal, psychological, sexual, institutional, discriminatory or financial, an act of neglect or failure to act”

3. **Types of abuse:**

a) *Physical abuse* – including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.

b) *Domestic violence* – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called ‘honour’ based violence.

c) *Sexual abuse* – including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

d) *Psychological abuse* – including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.

e) *Financial or material abuse* – including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult’s financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

f) *Modern slavery* – encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

g) *Discriminatory abuse* – including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment; because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

h) *Organisational abuse* – including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one’s own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

i) *Neglect and acts of omission* – including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating

j) *Self-neglect* – this covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one’s personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

Recommended agencies:

- a) Their Local Authority, Social Services, GP Surgery, Police, etc.
- b) *Action on Elder Abuse (AEA)* is a confidential support and advice for older people who have been abused or people who know an older person who may be suffering abuse.

Available weekdays 9am - 5pm on freephone 0808 808 8141.

- c) *Voice UK* is a national charity supporting people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable people who have experienced crime or abuse. They also support their families, carers and professional workers.

Voice runs a helpline 0808 802 8686.