

Protection of Vulnerable Adults Policy

1. Definition of Vulnerable Adult

"A person over 18 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 against significant harm or exploitation" (1997 consultation paper "Who Decides?" issued by the Lord Chancellor's Department)

This may include people who:

- are elderly and frail
- have learning disabilities
- suffer from mental illness
- have a physical disability
- are substance misusers
- are homeless
- are in an abusive relationship

2. Aims

The aim of this policy is to make members and volunteers aware of the kind of behaviours that may constitute abuse, ill treatment or unfairness. To make members aware of a range of behaviours that will not be tolerated and to encourage everyone to speak out about such behaviour either experienced or witnessed.

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

Types of abuse:

- physical
- sexual
- psychological/emotional
- neglect
- financial or material
- discriminatory

3. Responsibilities

- a) Any member or volunteer who is made aware of identified or suspected abuse should report this to a member of the executive committee.
- b) Support will be given to those who make a complaint or allegation or expression of concern.
- c) The policy will be made available to all members and volunteers.

4. Confidentiality

- a) Information about an alleged abuse will be share on a "need to know" basis and treated in the strictest confidence.
- b) The alleged abusers right to confidentiality will also be upheld

Adopted on: 3rd February 2015

Signed: