

## Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy

### Purpose

To ensure Walton Village Hall, Wetherby is able to keep adults with whom it works safe; and to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.

### Scope

This policy applies to all trustees and volunteers who come into contact with adults at risk through the course of their work. This does not normally occur, therefore any users of the Village Hall that come into contact with vulnerable adults should have their own Safeguarding policy. If not then this policy applies.

### Policy Statements

Walton Village Hall, Wetherby provides a range of services to groups, organisations and individuals and this policy and its associated procedures have been designed to ensure the welfare and protection of any adult who accesses services provided.

Walton Village Hall, Wetherby will not tolerate the abuse of adults at risk in any of its forms.

Walton Village Hall, Wetherby is committed to:

- Managing its services in a way which minimizes the risk of abuse occurring;
- Supporting adults who are at risk, experiencing or have experienced abuse; and
- Working with adults at risk and other agencies to end any abuse that is taking place.

In achieving these aims Walton Village Hall, Wetherby will ensure:

- That all trustees and volunteers have access to and are familiar with this safeguarding adult policy and procedures and their responsibilities within it
- Concerns or allegations of abuse are always taken seriously
- The Mental Capacity Act is used to make decisions on behalf of those adults at risk who are unable to make particular decisions for themselves
- That Trustees receive training in relation to safeguarding adults at a level commensurate with their role.
- That service users, their relatives or informal carers have access to information about how to report concerns or allegations of abuse
- There is a named lead person to promote safeguarding awareness and practice within the organisation

This policy and its associated procedures has been developed to be consistent with the Safeguarding Adults Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures for Leeds, which can be referred to for additional guidance at <https://leedssafeguardingadults.org.uk/safeguarding-adults>

### Policy Definitions

#### An 'Adult at risk'

For the purposes of this policy, an adult at risk is an adult who is:  
Aged 18 years or more, and

## Walton Village Hall, Wetherby

Has needs for care and support (whether or not these are currently being met),

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 the risk of it.

Such a definition includes adults with physical, sensory and mental impairments and learning disabilities, howsoever those impairments have arisen e.g. whether present from birth or due to advancing age, chronic illness or injury.

Also included are people with a mental illness, dementia or other memory impairments, people who misuse substances or alcohol.

The definition includes unpaid carers (family and friends who provide personal assistance and care to adults on an unpaid basis).

### **Abuse**

Abuse can take many forms and the circumstances of the individual should always be considered. It may consist of a single act or repeated acts. The following are examples of issues that would be considered as a safeguarding concern.

- Abuse may be carried out deliberately or unknowingly.
- Abuse may be a single act or repeated acts.

People who behave abusively come from all backgrounds and walks of life. They may be doctors, nurses, social workers, advocates, staff members, volunteers or others in a position of trust. They may also be relatives, friends, neighbours or people who use the same services as the person experiencing abuse.

Physical abuse - includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, and misuse of medication, unlawful or inappropriate restraint, or inappropriate physical sanctions.

Domestic abuse – is “an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse by someone who is or has been an intimate partner or family member regardless of gender or sexuality” (Home Office, 2013). Domestic violence and abuse may include psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; as well as so called ‘honour’ based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Sexual abuse - includes rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult at risk has not consented, or could not consent or was pressured into consenting.

Psychological abuse - includes 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 from services or supportive networks.

Financial and material 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.

Modern slavery - includes human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use the means they have at their disposal to coerce deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhuman treatment.

Neglect and acts of omission - includes 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.

Discriminatory abuse - includes abuse based on a person’s race, sex, disability, faith, sexual orientation, or age; other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment or hate crime/hate incident.

Organisational abuse – includes neglect and poor 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.

## Walton Village Hall, Wetherby

Self-neglect - covers a wide range of behaviours, such as neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviours such as hoarding.

A safeguarding response in relation to self-neglect may be appropriate where:

A person is declining assistance in relation to their care and support needs, and the impact of their decision, has or is likely to have a substantial impact on their overall individual wellbeing

### Key Roles

Every trustee and volunteer has a responsibility to act on concerns of possible abuse and must inform the Walton Village Hall, Wetherby Safeguarding Concerns Main Contact (Insert name of person). If any trustee or volunteer has any concerns and are in any doubt, then they should speak with the Safeguarding Concerns Main Contact or his / her Deputy (insert name of person) straight away.

**The Walton Village Hall, Wetherby Safeguarding Concerns Main Point of Contact** has the responsibility to decide whether it is appropriate to raise a safeguarding concern with the local authority on behalf of their organisation or to respond to the concerns in an alternative manner.

The role also includes:

- Ensuring that immediate safety issues are addressed, other parties notified (LCC Health and Adult Social Care; and the Police) and that staff are supported.
- Ensuring that they are kept informed when a member of staff (or volunteer) has raised a concern
- Establishing the desired outcomes of the adult at risk

The named person(s) for safeguarding concerns within Walton Village Hall, Wetherby are:

#### **Named Safeguarding Concerns Main Contact: Maggie Molyneux**

Telephone number 01937 586014

Mobile Number 07870 192967

#### **Name Deputy Safeguarding Concerns Main Contact: William Keag**

Telephone number: 01937 541616

Mobile number 07519 945660

The Chair of trustees is responsible for ensuring this policy and procedure is reviewed and up to date and is responsible for ensuring all volunteers receive appropriate training and information to fulfil their roles.

### Training and Supervision

Safeguarding and related training is provided via Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board

Walton Village Hall, Wetherby is committed to ensuring that all trustees and volunteers gain a basic awareness of signs and symptoms of abuse and will ensure that the named person and their deputy have access to training around Safeguarding Adults.

### Prevention

Walton Village Hall, Wetherby has a procedure in place that minimises the risk of abuse occurring.

Trustees or volunteers may need to refer to this in order to determine whether abuse has occurred and how to respond:

A copy of the procedure which accompanies this policy is available from the named Walton Village Hall, Wetherby people in the policy.

## Walton Village Hall, Wetherby

Approved by the board of trustees of Walton Village Hall, Wetherby.

Date: 07.09.2023

This policy will be reviewed and updated annually