

Safeguarding children, young people and adults with care & support needs - Awareness Raising Training

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Safeguarding children, young people and adults with care and support needs awareness training

Training Aims:

- To understand your safeguarding responsibilities.
- To understand the types of abuse.
- To know what to do if you have a safeguarding concern.
- To be aware of the Council's Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding principles.

Safeguarding - It's everyone's responsibility

- You have a responsibility to safeguard children, young people and adults with care and support needs against any form of abuse.
 - Whatever your role, you are the eyes and ears of the community and have a responsibility to act if you have any concerns.
 - Warning signs can be hard to spot though, so if you see something that concerns you, **don't leave it - share it** with one of the following Council's Safeguarding leads:
 - Head of Community and Housing Services - Judith Willis.
 - Community Services Manager - Tara Day.
 - Community Safety Manager - Bev Houghton.
- (Nb: Director Lead – Executive Director, Guy Revans)
- Look out for the posters on noticeboards with their contact names and their telephone numbers.
 - If you feel someone is at immediate risk contact the emergency services on 999

Types of Abuse

- All children, young people and adults with care and support needs should be able to lead safe, fulfilling lives and not be subject to abuse or neglect by others. Types of abuse can be:
 - Physical abuse;
 - Sexual abuse;
 - Emotional abuse (including a child witnessing domestic abuse);
 - Financial abuse;
 - Neglect;
 - Bullying;
 - Risk of injury.
 - Signs of abuse may not be obvious but can include physical appearance and behaviour or it may be that child, young person or adult tells you something.
 - If you have a concern that someone may be suffering abuse, share your concern with a safeguarding lead without delay. If possible, it is important not to make a safeguarding decision on your own.
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Children & Young People

“Anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday. The fact they have reached 16 years of age; are living independently or in further education; are a member of the armed forces; in hospital or in custody in the secure estate for children and young people, does not change his or her status or entitlement to services or protection under the Children’s Act (1989/2004)”

*The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) protects the right to self-determination for people whose capacity may be questioned and provides a legal process for professionals proposing making decisions for them. The decision-making provisions apply to people over 16, while some further provisions only apply to adults. It is essential that any person proposing to make a decision for a relevant person follows the Act.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Definition:

“Child Criminal Exploitation occurs when an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 years. The victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Child Criminal Exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology”

GET SAFE is the Worcestershire name for the multi-agency support and protection for children and young people at risk of exploitation

Other forms of abuse to be aware of are:

- Radicalisation
- Honour Based Abuse (HBA)
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Forced Marriage (FM)
- Modern Slavery including Human Trafficking

Adults with care and support needs

An adult with care & support needs is any person aged 18 or over 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. Adults with care of support needs may include:

- A mental health problem or illness (including dementia)
- A physical disability
- A learning disability
- Frailty or experiencing a temporary illness

Reporting concerns about a member of staff

- If you have concerns that a member of staff, Councillor, or other professional may be abusing a child, young person or adult or if a person makes an allegation about a member of staff you must immediately report this to a Safeguarding Lead.
- Where it is appropriate to do so, relevant Human Resources Service procedures may be initiated and/or a referral made to an external agency.

What to do if you have a safeguarding concern

- If you are concerned about a child, young person or adult with care & support needs follow the procedure in Appendix 2 of the policy – copies including key contact telephone numbers are on noticeboards and in Member Rooms)
- Do be aware that whilst it is your role to pick up concerns in the first instance, discuss them with your safeguarding leads and document your concerns; **it is not your role to investigate the concern.** This is the role of Social Care and the Police.
- Where it is appropriate to do so, relevant Human Resources Service procedures may be initiated and/or a referral made to an external agency.

Safeguarding Policy and Principles

All the information from this training is contained in the Council's **Children, Young People and Adults with Care & Support Needs Safeguarding Policy and Procedure**. A full copy can be found in the Members Room and on our Website.

Always consider the following safeguarding principles:-

- Empowerment - people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions
- Prevention – it is better to act before harm occurs
- Partnership - Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
- Protection – support and representation for those in greatest need

Safeguarding Policy & Principles continued...

- Child abuse and abuse to adults with care & support needs really exists - it is prevalent throughout society and is not related to any one group. Everyone needs to be open to this and to be vigilant.
- Child and adult protection is a multi agency operation - not one organisation or agency can protect children, young people and adults. We must trust and work with others and share information. Remember it is better to share information or a concern twice than not at all.
- Where possible consent should be sought before sharing information, however this may not be possible if it places a person at risk of serious harm or impacts on the detection of a serious crime.

Key points to remember about Safeguarding

- You have a responsibility to act if you have a concern, it is not an option to do nothing.
- Share your concerns - Always discuss your concerns with one of the Safeguarding Leads.
- Follow the Safeguarding Procedure flowchart - if someone is at immediate risk contact the emergency services on 999
- It is your responsibility to report concerns but not to investigate the concern.