

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy.

Healthwatch Bedford Borough (HBB) is committed to ensuring that vulnerable people are not abused and that working practices minimise the risk of such abuse.

The Directors, staff and volunteers have a duty to identify abuse and report it accordingly.

Definition

Vulnerable adults are people who are over 18 years of age and are getting or may need help and services to live in the community. Vulnerable adults may be unable to take care of themselves and unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation by other people.

Abuse can include:

- Physical.
- Financial.
- Material.
- Sexual.
- Psychological.
- Discriminatory.
- Emotional abuse.
- Neglect.

Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and can be perpetuated by anyone.

Rights & Responsibilities

Director`s Responsibilities are to:

- Ensure volunteers are aware of vulnerable adult`s need for protection.
- Notify the appropriate agencies if abuse is identified or suspected
- Support and where possible secure the safety of individuals and ensure that all referrals to services have full information in relation to identified risk and vulnerability.
- Undertake Disclosure Barring checks on volunteers that have access to or work with Vulnerable Adults.

Staff/Volunteers Responsibilities are to:

- Be familiar with the vulnerable adult protection policy.
- Take appropriate action in line with the policy of HBB.
- Declare any existing or subsequent convictions.

Support for those who report abuse.

All those making a complaint or allegation or expressing concern, should be reassured that:

- They will be taken seriously.
- Their comments will usually be treated confidentially, but their concerns may be shared with the appropriate authorities if they or others are at significant risk.

The Vulnerable Adult has the right to:

- Be made aware of this policy.
- Have alleged incidents recognised and taken seriously.
- Receive fair and respectful treatment throughout.
- Be involved in any process as appropriate.
- Receive information about the outcome.

HBB is also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Chairman's Signature:



Adopted on: 11 July 2013

Review on: May 2017