

THE ASSOCIATION OF TEESDALE DAY CLUBS

Guideline

Number G07-1 Issue 05

Protecting Vulnerable Adults from Abuse

Introduction

All trustees, staff, volunteers and members of the Association of Teesdale Day Clubs (hereafter referred to as “the Association”) have a responsibility to ensure, wherever possible, that members of the Association who are vulnerable adults are not suffering abuse.

Staff and volunteers get to know members reasonably well and can become aware of possible abuse from quite small clues.

The guidance in this document is designed to help identify possible abuse and to outline the actions to be taken if it is thought that a member (or anyone else known to the Association) is suffering from abuse.

The Trustees will have appointed a suitably qualified person to act as the Named Contact to whom any concerns can be notified. The Named Contact must be familiar with the guidelines set by Durham County Council* and ideally have attended a Safeguarding course. Alternatively, they must have enrolled on and completed a suitable e-learning course**.

Who are Vulnerable Adults?

Vulnerable adults are individuals who may be unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

Where does abuse happen?

Abuse can happen anywhere but the most common places are:

- at home
- in hospital
- in residential and nursing homes
- at day care or social centres
- in the community

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What is abuse?

There are a number of ways in which a person can be mistreated, harmed or distressed. These include:

- Physical
Hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions.
- Sexual
Including rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the vulnerable person has not consented, could not consent, or was pressured into consenting.
- Emotional or Psychological
Including threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation, or withdrawal from services or support networks (including the services of the Association).
- Financial or Material (money or personal possessions)
Including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- Neglect
Including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to health, social care or educational services, withholding the necessities of life like medication, proper food and heating.
- Discrimination (race, gender or disability)
Including racist, sexist, disability based, age based and any other form of harassment, slurs or similar treatment.

Who might be involved?

- People who are being abused
- People who are worried that someone is being abused
- Friends, relatives or neighbours who are concerned
- Professional staff (for example nurses, doctors, social workers, therapists, police and solicitors)
- Visitors (for example care staff or voluntary workers)
- Residents of care homes and sheltered housing
- Anyone who fears that they are likely to harm another person

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How can possible abuse be noticed?

The clues may be small, for instance:

- Changes in behaviour or eating habits
- Becoming withdrawn and/or not talking
- Seeming nervous and/or ill-at-ease
- Becoming easily distressed
- Unexplained injuries or bruising
- Unexplained absences from Club or any other regular engagements

Further information on safeguarding can be found on the following web sites;

*<http://www.safeguardingdurhamadults.info/>

‘Social Care Institute for Excellence (scie.org.uk).

Actions to be taken if abuse is suspected.

If any person involved with the Association (staff, trustee, volunteer or member) has any concerns about the wellbeing of a member or if they feel that further support or action is required, they should contact the Club leader, Manager, Chairman or a trustee of the Association.

The Named Contact appointed by the Trustees should also be notified. If deemed necessary, this person will then contact the appropriate agency to report the concerns.

Any concerns will be dealt with seriously, independently, sensitively and in confidence. Anyone raising concerns will be fully supported and no actions will be taken without prior discussion and agreement.

Reviewed and approved by the Board of Trustees and signed on their behalf by the Chairman:

Date: 15th November 2017