

Protection of Vulnerable Adults Policy Statement

Introduction

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that all vulnerable adults involved with us, or with whom we come into contact will have the highest degree of safety and protection we are able to provide.

The protection of Vulnerable Adults according to the terms of the national Care Standards Commission Adult Protection Protocol 2003 defines a Vulnerable Adult as someone aged 18 years or older who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of a learning or physical disability, mental health issues, age or illness. They may be unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation. Their situation may be complicated by additional factors such as frailty, chronic illness, sensory impairment, challenging behaviour, drug or alcohol issues, social or emotional issues, poverty or homelessness.

Statement of Policy

- Staff refers to all full-time, part-time, temporary, agency, volunteers and students
- All BCT staff will report any suspicions or allegations of abuse to a Vulnerable Adult as soon as possible
- All staff will receive training in Vulnerable Adult protection issues and procedures
- All staff must be familiar with the Vulnerable Adults Procedure and comply with the policy
- All alleged accusations and incidents will be taken seriously and acted on promptly

Relevant Procedures

Staff Responsibilities

- Appropriate Action should be taken immediately to ensure the safety of the Vulnerable Adult or other Vulnerable Adults as stated in this policy. The incident should be reported to the Project Manager, Becci Murray or CEO, Julien Lake, Leads and safeguarding points of contact, as soon as practicable
- All staff working with Vulnerable Adults who are aware of or suspect abuse is taking place must report any concerns immediately. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action
- In all cases, encourage the individual to report abuse to Social Care and Health agencies themselves. The role of BCT is to facilitate and support the process
- Take extreme care in confirming information given by service users – remember you are not an investigator
- Confidentiality is of great importance and must be respected. There are circumstances where confidentiality must be broken (refer to BCT's Confidentiality and Data Protection Policy). Where possible establish boundaries with the service users at the outset of their involvement with BCT
- Information must only be passed on as detailed in the procedures or where there is a clearly established need to know
- Follow up incident within 7 days

Management Responsibilities

All staff will be trained on Vulnerable Adult Protection issues and local Safeguarding Adult Procedures with documentation of the training kept in their files

The emergency numbers for staff to contact One Call, Northumberland Adult Social Services, are posted and updated as required

This policy will be reviewed no later than November 2022.