

Wraysbury & Horton Voluntary Care

Introduction

Safeguarding means protecting the right of individuals to live in safety and free from abuse and neglect, which may include physical or emotional abuse, sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation, criminal exploitation, commercial exploitation, cyber abuse, neglect, domestic abuse, bullying or harassment, and health and safety issues.

Aims

Wraysbury and Horton Voluntary Care (WHVC) seek to promote well-being, prevent harm and respond effectively if concerns are raised. All our volunteers have a duty to ensure that all aspects of safeguarding are an integral part of their focus. Our commitment to this is reflected in the way WHVC works and the values of our organisation, which create the main structure for all our safeguarding activity:

- We treat our beneficiaries/clients with dignity and respect
- We are inclusive
- We work together, we involve and we consult
- We work to ensure that our volunteers and Trustees feel confident in their role
- We work to ensure that our clients feel confident in our ability to assist them

Main Principles

Responsibility - Everyone at WHVC has a responsibility to keep all our beneficiaries safe from abuse and neglect.

Prevention – We will put sensible measures in place to prevent abuse, including the use of safe recruitment practices for volunteers, promoting safe working practice and raising awareness of safeguarding.

Protection – We will provide policy, procedures, information, and training to enable all WHVC volunteers to identify and respond appropriately to concerns about abuse.

Partnership – WHVC will work in Partnership with statutory, regulatory and other relevant organisations to ensure that safeguarding concerns are responded to appropriately.

Reporting - We understand the importance of confidentiality and sharing information about beneficiaries only when appropriate and necessary

Reviewing - Trustees will ensure that volunteers are provided with the skills and knowledge necessary to support them in their safeguarding duties. This will be reviewed annually and for all new volunteers.

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Roles and Responsibilities

Volunteers

Every individual working for WHVC, irrespective of their role, has a part to play in safeguarding children and adults who need care and support. Everyone must familiarise themselves with our Safeguarding Policy and Procedures and agree to adhere to these.

Trustees

WHVC trustees approve the Safeguarding Policy and have a duty of care to their charity, which includes taking the necessary steps to safeguard those at risk from abuse, managing risk and protecting the reputation of the charity.

The Trustees hold joint responsibility for safeguarding in WHVC. They are responsible for developing and quality assuring safeguarding activity in WHVC .

Breaches of Policy

Failure to comply with the WHVC safeguarding policy may be investigated by the Trustees with one or several possible outcomes.

- Internal review
- Local authority co-ordinated safeguarding investigation
- Police investigation
- Referral to the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS)
- People & Performance disciplinary process
- Serious incident reporting to The Charity Commission

Equality Statement

WHVC is committed to providing services which embrace diversity and that promote equality of opportunity. Everyone who accesses our services or works with us in a paid or voluntary capacity should be safe, empowered to play a part in promoting their own welfare and that of others and able to live a life free from abuse. This applies to all, regardless of age, sex, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or belief.