



## **Horsham District Older Peoples Forum Safeguarding Policy Statement 2019**

Horsham District Older Peoples Forum (HDOPF) understands that it may come into contact with vulnerable adults and children as part of its activities. These include but are not limited to quarterly forums open to the general public, supporting groups that work with children/ vulnerable adults, public events.

### **The purpose of this statement is:**

- To protect children, young people and vulnerable adults who we may come into contact with.
- To provide volunteers with the overarching principles that guide our approach to Safeguarding.

This policy statement applies to anyone volunteering on behalf of HDOPF including the Committee.

### **Legal Framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of legislation, policy and guidance that seeks to protect children and vulnerable adults.

### **We believe that:**

- Children, young people and adults should never experience abuse of any kind
- We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children, young people and vulnerable adults, to keep them safe and to practice in a way that protects them.

### **We will seek to keep children, young people and vulnerable adults safe by:**

- valuing, listening to and respecting them
- a lead Committee member for safeguarding
- Using our safeguarding procedures to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know.
- providing effective management for volunteers through supervision and support
- using our procedures to manage any allegations against volunteers appropriately
- ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for children, young people, vulnerable adults and volunteers, by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance
- Recording and storing information professionally and securely.

## **Accountability**

HDOPF has delegated this responsibility to the Chairman.

## **Responding to a Safeguarding Concern**

If an individual discloses abuse or there is a suspicion of abuse volunteers must:

- Stay calm and be sensitive
- Record all observations and everything that is said
- Inform the Chairman of HDOPF about the concern
- Report to the police, adult's services or children services as appropriate:

**Police:** If someone is in immediate danger contact 999. For non- emergency contact 101

**Children:** Contact Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) on 01403 229900 (Out of Hours – 0330 2226664)

**Adults:** Contact Adults Carepoint on 012430642121

- An online referral can also be made to children's and adults services using the following link <https://westsussex-self.achieveservice.com/service/safeguarding> of which a copy will be saved in a secure location.

## **Allegations against volunteers**

Any allegations made against volunteers are to be reported to the Chairman of HDOPF immediately who in turn will make the necessary referral to the relevant body. If the allegation is made against the Chairman this is to be reported to the Vice Chairman.

Overall it is not Horsham District Older Peoples Forum role to establish whether or not abuse is taking place but it has a responsibility to report any concerns over the welfare of individuals.

## **Equality Statement**

HDOPF is committed to providing a service which embraces diversity and that promotes equality of opportunity. Everyone who accesses our services or works with us in a 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, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexuality or belief.

**Date: 28/08/2019**

**Date of Review: 28/08/2024**

## **Appendix 1 – Categories of Abuse**

### **Physical Abuse**

Physical Abuse may involve varying forms of physical assault including hitting, scalding, burning or any action which causes physical harm. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates symptoms or deliberately induces illness.

### **Neglect**

Neglect refers to the persistent failure to meet basic physical and/or psychological care needs of the child or vulnerable adult which are likely to result in serious impairment of their health or development. Neglect can occur prior to birth as a result of maternal self-neglect or substance misuse. Neglect can be the following;

- Failure to provide adequate food, clothing or shelter.
- Failure to protect child/vulnerable adult from physical or emotional harm.
- Failure to ensure adequate supervision (including use of inadequate care givers)
- Failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
- Failure to ensure access to appropriate education and development.

### **Self Neglect**

Self neglect is the inability to maintain a socially and culturally acceptable standard of self-care. This also includes neglect of physical and mental health conditions leading to detrimental impact on self.

### **Sexual Abuse**

The act of forcing or enticing a child/ vulnerable adult to take part in sexual activities. This does not necessarily have to occur with the child/vulnerable adult present. It can happen online.

### **Domestic violence**

Domestic violence and abuse includes any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. It also includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

### **Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery**

Children and adults are brought into the country or moved around the country for a number of reasons. They may be victims of Child Sexual Exploitation, subjected to modern slavery – domestic servitude, sex work, engagement in criminal activity, benefit fraud or forced marriage.

### **Female Genital Mutilation**

Female Genital Mutilation is illegal in the UK. It is also expected that if someone is suspected to have experienced or is at risk of being subjected to FGM. This must be reported to both Children's Services and the Police. FGM is the partial or full removal of the external female genitals.

### **Radicalisation**

The process by which people come to support terrorism and extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist activity.

### **Organisational Abuse**

Repeated instance of poor or inappropriate care may be an indicator of persistent care failure referred to as 'organisational abuse'. Organisational abuse occurs when an organisation's systems and processes and/or management fails to safeguard children or adults leaving them at risk of harm or causing harm.

**Financial Abuse**

Deliberate misuse of Child or adults money or material possessions. This includes theft, fraud, scamming and coercion in relation to finances or financial affairs. In Vulnerable adults this may be in relation to wills, property, inheritance and financial transactions. In younger people it can be that appropriation of finances and/or possessions.