



Vulnerable Adults Protection Statement for Donnington Partnership CIO (also referred to Donnington partnership)

Vulnerable adult protection representatives: Rose Gregory

“Donnington Partnership CIO is committed to ensuring the protection of vulnerable adults through the development and implementation of effective policies and best practice. Trustees, staff and volunteers, recognise and accept the responsibility to develop and raise awareness of the issues involved in working with vulnerable adults.”

Objectives

1. To provide an environment in which vulnerable adults feel safe and valued
2. To exercise a *Duty of Care* and ensure that all staff and volunteers working with vulnerable adults are carefully selected, understand and accept responsibility for the safety of vulnerable adults in our community.
3. To enable staff, volunteers, user group members and customers to feel confident in reporting any issues on vulnerable adult protection.
4. To work with, share information with and inform staff, volunteers and colleagues on all issues of vulnerable adult protection and its implementation.
5. To review and update this policy and practice on a regular basis.

A vulnerable adult protection statement makes it clear to all what is required in relation to the protection of vulnerable adults.

The Vulnerable Adult Protection Representative must ensure that all staff and volunteers have read and understood this policy.

Date the Statement was Read

Sign	Print name	Date
	Ian Harvey	
	Rose Gregory	
	Sharon Watkins	
	Mas Sowak	
	Heather Cooper	
	Liz Rees	
	Deborah Wilding	
	Jane Hassall	
	Richard Overton	



Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy for Donnington Partnership CIO'S

Aim of Policy

The aim of this policy is to ensure the safety of vulnerable adults by outlining clear procedures and ensuring that all staff and volunteers are clear about their responsibilities.

Responsibilities

All staff and volunteers have a responsibility to be aware of this policy and to report any suspicions that they might have concerning adult abuse.

Definition

The broad definition of a vulnerable adult is a person:

'Who is eighteen years of age or over, and who may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness, and who is or may be unable to take care of him/herself, or unable to protect him/herself against significant harm or exploitation.'
(*'Who Decides'*:1997, Lord Chancellor's department)

This **may** include a person who:

- Is elderly and frail
- Has a mental illness including dementia
- Has a physical or sensory disability
- Has a learning disability
- Has a severe physical illness
- Is a substance misuser
- Is homeless

What is abuse?

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons. It can take a number of forms:

- **Physical abuse** e.g. hitting, pushing, shaking, inappropriate restraint, force-feeding, forcible administration of medication, neglect or abandonment
- **Sexual abuse** e.g. involvement in any sexual activity against his/her will, exposure to pornography, voyeurism and exhibitionism
- **Emotional/psychological abuse** e.g. intimidation or humiliation
- **Financial abuse** e.g. theft or exerting improper pressure to sign over money from pensions or savings etc.
- **Neglect** or acts of omission e.g. being left in wet or soiled clothing, or malnutrition
- **Discriminatory abuse** e.g. racial, sexual or religious harassment
- **Personal exploitation** – involves denying an individual his/her rights or forcing him/her to perform tasks that are against his/her will
- **Violation of rights** e.g. preventing an individual speaking his/her thoughts and opinions
- **Institutional abuse** e.g. failure to provide a choice of meals or failure to ensure privacy or dignity

Rights of Vulnerable Adults

Vulnerable adults have 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.

Code of Conduct

- 1) Make sure all members of the executive committee, staff and volunteers have read and understand the Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy and Procedure to report vulnerable adult protection cases appropriately.
- 2) Ensure that all staff and volunteers who work with or have responsibility for, vulnerable adults are checked by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB).
- 3) To ensure staff and volunteers who work with or have responsibility for vulnerable adults are supervised during a designated probationary period with ongoing regular supervision opportunities.
- 4) Staff and volunteers treat vulnerable adults with respect and sensitivity at all times.
- 5) Staff and volunteers must ensure that the safety and dignity of those vulnerable adults in their care is maintained at all times.
- 6) It is the duty of staff and volunteers to ensure that vulnerable adults in their care are aware that there are designated staff and volunteers to help them with any worries and/or difficulties.
- 7) To exercise a “*Duty of Care*”. If staff/volunteers have concerns about the possible abuse of a vulnerable adult, or where a disclosure has been made, this must be reported as a *Duty of Care* responsibility.

Reporting

- a) If an allegation is made to a volunteer/staff member or there is a suspicion of abuse then the volunteer/staff member should inform the vulnerable adult protection representative as soon as possible.
- b) All those making a complaint, allegation, or expression of concern, whether staff, volunteers, service users, carers or members of the public should be reassured that they:
 - will be taken seriously
 - their comments will usually be treated confidentially but their concerns may be shared if they or others are at significant risk
 - if service users, they will be given immediate protection from the risk of reprisals or intimidation
 - if staff/volunteer workers they will be given support and afforded protection.
- c) The vulnerable adult protection representative should make a written record of the allegation or suspicion of abuse and contact the Adult Protection Team on **01952 385678** -see *Child/ Vulnerable adult incident report form*

- d) The vulnerable adult protection representative will liaise with the relevant agencies and forward the record of concern for information. A copy should be kept on file to which designated representatives *only* have access.
- e) If a staff/volunteer member has been told about the allegation of abuse in confidence, they should attempt to gain the consent of the person to make a referral to another agency. However, the gaining of the consent is not essential in order for information to be passed on. Consideration needs to be given to:
 - The scale of the abuse
 - The risk of harm to others
 - The capacity of the victim to understand the issues of abuse and consent
- f) If there is any doubt about whether or not to report an issue to the relevant authorities then it should be reported.
- g) In emergency situations (e.g. where there is the risk or occurrence or severe physical injury), where immediate action is needed to safeguard the health or safety of the individual or anyone else who may be at risk, the emergency services must be contacted.

It is important for staff and volunteers to avoid making assumptions and discussing concerns indiscriminately.

Confidentiality, and respect for the vulnerable adult(s) involved, is of the utmost importance.

Recruitment and Training

Donnington Partnership will ensure that all staff and volunteers whose roles include working with vulnerable adults are carefully selected, CRB checked, trained and supervised.

Volunteers will have a supervised probationary period of three months with regular supervision thereafter.

Monitoring

This policy will be reviewed on a regular basis by the Executive Committee to ensure it remains fit for purpose.

Local Contacts

Contact the Adult Protection Team on **01952 385678**

*If you have a concern that requires advice before action is taken out of 'normal working hours' then contact the Emergency Duty Team on **01952 676500**

Please note that the process for dealing with vulnerable adults is different to that of a child and you may not get an immediate response-but you will be contacted

Police 0300 3333 000

This policy was adopted by Donnington Partnership Executive Committee

Signed:.....on behalf of the Donnington Partnership Executive Committee

Position..... Date.....