

## ADULT SAFEGUARDING EXPLAINED



### 1. Introduction

- 1.2 The Christian Nightlife Initiative (CNI) Board of Trustees strongly recommends that all volunteers working in any street angels project receives instruction in respect of adult safeguarding. This may be available via local police or council connections and, because of the importance and direct relevance to our work, we advise that projects take advantage of any information and training available from them through these sources. All projects – whether associated or affiliated to CNI, should have a robust safeguarding policy in place with trained and named safeguarding leads, who are able to report matters of concern.
- 1.3 Whilst it is reasonable to assume that most of the individuals our volunteers engage with are adults, we must remember that there is similar safeguarding legislation in place in respect of children and young persons (defined as any person under the age of 18 years). There are those who purport to be adults, especially within the night-time economy period, and we must be mindful of this when dealing with individuals. Both child and adult safeguarding legislation run in parallel, but it is important to recognise that there are differences. The welfare of a child or young person must always be paramount, whereas an adult has the right to make their own decisions unless there are clear grounds to override this because of their lack of capacity or if a wider public interest is involved.
- 1.4 The selection process for persons wishing to become volunteers must ensure as far as is possible that they represent no risk to those likely to be offered help during CNI related activities. We recommend that two references are obtained and wherever possible an Enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check is carried out. Additionally, an active monitoring process should be in place and under no circumstances should volunteers work on a one-to-one basis with clients.

### 2. What is Adult Safeguarding?

*The following information has been supplied via Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council and can be found on their website. We are grateful for their clarity in summarising the subject:*

- 2.1 Safeguarding means protecting an adult's rights to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risk and experience of abuse and neglect.
- 2.2 Abuse and neglect can take many forms and the circumstances of the individual case will always be considered. There are many different types and patterns of abuse and neglect and the different circumstances in which they may take place. The list below is not intended to be an exhaustive list but an illustrative guide as to the sort of behaviour which could give rise to a safeguarding concern.

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- **Physical abuse:** including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, and misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.
- **Domestic abuse:** including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse, so called 'honour 'based violence.
- **Sexual abuse:** including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual pornography, subjection to pornography, or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.
- **Psychological abuse:** including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercing, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive network.
- **Financial and material abuse:** including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property inheritance, or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- **Modern slavery:** encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude, traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.
- **Discriminatory abuse:** including form of harassment, slurs or similar treatment; because of race, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, or religion.
- **Organisational abuse:** including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment.
- **Neglect of acts of omission:** including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- **Self-neglect:** this covers a wide range of behaviours. Neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

2.3 Abuse can happen anywhere: for example, in someone's own home, in a public place, in hospital, in a care home or in college, it can take place when an adult lives alone or with others. While a lot of attention is paid, for example to target fraud or internet scams perpetrated by complete strangers, it is far more likely that the person responsible for abuse is known to the adult and is in a position of trust and power.

2.4 Anyone can carry out abuse or neglect, including, spouses/partner, other family member, neighbours, friends, acquaintances, local residents, people who deliberately exploit adults they perceive as vulnerable to abuse, paid staff, professionals, volunteers and strangers.

2.5 Incidents of abuse may be single incidents or multiple. Patterns of abuse vary and include:

- Serial abusing in which the perpetrator seeks out and grooms' individuals. Sexual abuse sometimes falls into this pattern as do some forms of financial abuse.
- Long-term abuse in context of an ongoing family relationship such as domestic violence between spouses or generations or persistent psychological abuse.
- Opportunistic abuse such as theft occurring because money or jewellery has been left lying around.
- There may be many signs of abuse but some of the common ones are:
  - unexplained injuries

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- unusual bruising
- weight loss
- fearfulness and anxiety
- lack of money
- food or clothing or unexplained debt
- unusually disturbed behaviour
- inappropriately sexualised behaviour
- bullying
- lack of choice in how to live day to day life

### **3. What are your roles and responsibilities?**

- 3.1 All staff, management, trustees and volunteers are expected to report any concerns to the named person for safeguarding. If the allegation is against one of the organisation's members, volunteers, trustees or directors you must seek advice from your named safeguarding lead. If the allegation is against the safeguarding lead, the senior member of your board or steering group must contact your local authority safeguarding board.
- 3.2 The designated safeguarding lead should be responsible for any referral to the police or local authority safeguarding board. Feedback should be given in a way that will not make the situation worse or breach the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). If the police are involved, they should be consulted prior to giving feedback to the referrer to ensure any criminal investigation is not affected.
- 3.3 The local authority will decide on who will lead on a safeguarding enquiry should it progress to that stage. **You should not conduct your own safeguarding enquiry unless instructed to do so by the local authority.**