



SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

The aim of this policy is to ensure the safety of vulnerable adults accessing Parentlink.

Parentlink when working vulnerable adults will ensure that they will:

- Promote their health and welfare.
- Respect and promote their rights.
- Work in a way which safeguards the wellbeing of the vulnerable person and protect them from harm and abuse.
- Take appropriate steps if they became aware of any signs / incidents of harm and abuse
- Parentlink will ensure group members and volunteers are not expected to be alone or left unsupervised with vulnerable adults or to attend to their personal care needs.

Policy Aims

- To promote good practice and ensure that volunteers are able to work in a environment where there is irregular and low intensity contact with vulnerable adults with confidence
- To provide vulnerable adults with appropriate safety and protection whilst in the company of participating volunteers
- To allow volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific Adult Safeguarding issues
- Monitor the level of contact with vulnerable adults to ensure that the contact is infrequent and of low intensity and below the threshold of DBS check requirements
- To ensure that vulnerable adults and their carers (if appropriate) are aware of what to do if they have a concern and that they would feel confident to pass their concern on.

Terms used

- A **Vulnerable Adult** is defined as a person aged 18 years or over "Who is or maybe in need of community care services by means of mental or other disability, age or illness' and 'Who is or maybe unable to take care of him or herself or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation
- **Regulated Activities** are the activities that the Disclosure and Barring Service can bar people from doing. It is a criminal offence for a barred person to seek to work, or work in, activities from which they are barred. It is also a criminal offence for employers or voluntary organisations to knowingly employ a barred person in regulated activity.
- **Infrequent Contact** is classed in Hampshire's 'The Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults (SoVA) Introductory notes for voluntary & community groups' as occasional, irregular or short term contact over a period of time. It is also unlikely that the organisation core aims are to provide activities to children, young people or vulnerable adults.

- **Low intensity** is contact within a group context, in a public space – taking part in an activity with minimal physical contact, not providing intimate care or being left alone with the person. It is also highly likely that parents or guardians are present.

The named person responsible for this policy is Debbie Drury

They will:

- Ensure that the welfare of vulnerable adults is given the highest priority by the organisation, its management and volunteers
- To promote good practice and ensure that volunteers are able to work with vulnerable adults with confidence
- Ensure that this Practice Guidance and Procedures is enacted and monitored including the briefing, training and gathering feedback from volunteers
- Monitor contact with vulnerable adults to ensure that the frequency and intensity of contact is consistent with the DBS threshold levels.
- Act as the main contact for disclosing information around adult safeguarding concerns
- Ensure that the concerns of vulnerable adults are heard and acted upon
- Be responsible for reporting incidents or concerns to appropriate authorities
- Attend appropriate training relevant to the level of engagement with vulnerable adults to ensure all staff/volunteers remain up to date with current practice and legislation
- Ensure volunteers have access to further appropriate information
- Where appropriate, sign up to Hampshire County Council's Adult Safeguarding Policy Guidance and Procedures