

<u>Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy</u>			
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Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy

A. Introduction

The Winch is committed to safeguarding the children, young people and adults in its care.

Some adults are at risk of experiencing abuse or neglect. This may be because they are unable to take care of themselves fully or because they cannot always protect themselves from others who wish to harm them.

We will take reasonable and appropriate steps to ensure the welfare and promote the wellbeing of adults at risk in our care.

B. Purpose and Scope of the Policy

The Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy sets out to explain:

- Who an adult at risk might be;
- What adult abuse and neglect is;
- How to recognise adult abuse and neglect; and
- What to do if you are concerned that an adult at risk is being abused or harmed

This policy applies to members of staff, agency staff, contractors and volunteers at the Winch.

C. Definitions

C.1 Adults at risk

The term 'adult at risk' replaces the previously used term 'vulnerable adult'. In safeguarding terms, an adult at risk is defined as a person 18 and over who:

- has needs for care and support (*whether or not* the local authority is meeting any of those needs);
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- as a result of those care and support needs, either are unable to protect themselves from the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

C.2 Abuse or Neglect

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of an individual. The maltreatment involves a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person(s) or institution. This can involve serious assault, as well as instances where there is a breach of standards of care, where the standards do not adequately support the individual's health or development.

Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. Abuse may be an act of neglect. Abuse may occur when a person is persuaded to enter into a transaction that they have not consented to or cannot reasonably be expected to consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship, in an institution or in community settings.

C.3 Care and Support

‘Care and support’ is the term used to describe the help some adults need in order that they can live in the best way they can, regardless of any illness or disability they might have. It can include help with things such as self-care, practical assistance with finances, or emotional support at times of stress. It could also include access to a care home, home care, day services or the provision of aids and adaptations.

D. Safeguarding Principles

The statutory guidance for the Care Act 2014 defines six principles that should underpin all safeguarding functions, actions and decisions. We provide example statements of what these principles in action might look and feel like for an adult in the table below:

Principle	Description	Principle in action
Empowerment	Adults are encouraged to make their own decisions and are provided with support and information	“I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens”
Prevention	It is better to take action before harm occurs.	“I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help”
Proportionality	What we do should be proportionate to the risk.	“I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, as I see them and they will only get involved as much as needed”
Protection	Those in greatest need require our support and protection	“I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part to the extent to which I want”
Partnership	Safeguarding is about different people, professions, groups and communities working together	“I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me”
Accountability	We must be accountable for what we do in safeguarding.	“I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they”

E. Abuse and Neglect- Signs and Indicators

Abuse can happen anywhere and can consist of single or repeated acts. An abuser can be anyone that encounters an adult at risk and is often someone well known or close to them, or someone who is employed to care for them. Abuse often results in a violation of human and civil rights.

Outlined below are different types of abuse and some indicators that this type of abuse is occurring. The signs and indicators are not definitive and act as a guide only.

Type of Abuse	Description	Signs or Indicators
Physical abuse	Assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions	Injuries that are unexplained or have not been treated, e.g. broken bones, bruises, unexplained loss of clumps of hair, or bite, burn or scald marks.
Domestic abuse	Psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence	Coercive or controlling behaviour, verbal abuse and humiliation in front of others, Fear of outside intervention, damage to home or property, or isolation from support or not seeing friends and family.
Sexual abuse	Rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, 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.	Physical injury, changes in behaviour for no apparent reason, sudden onset of confusion or incontinence, uncharacteristic use of explicit sexual language, self-harming, poor concentration, withdrawal, disturbed sleep, excessive fear/apprehension of, or withdrawal from, relationships
Psychological abuse	Emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, Verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation, or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.	Withdrawal or change in the psychological state, insomnia, low self-esteem, aggressive behaviour, change of appetite, weight loss/gain, signs of distress: tearfulness, anger, fearfulness or ambivalence towards carers, paranoia.
Financial or material abuse	Theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's	Missing personal possessions, rent arrears and eviction,

Type of Abuse	Description	Signs or Indicators
	financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.	unexplained lack of money or inability to maintain lifestyle, withdrawal of funds from accounts, power of attorney or being obtained after the person has ceased to have mental capacity.
Modern slavery	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.	Signs of physical or emotional abuse, appearing withdrawn or malnourished, isolation from the community, seeming under the control or influence of others, living in dirty or overcrowded accommodation and/or living and working at the same address, lack of personal belongings or identification documents, always wearing the same clothes.
Discriminatory abuse	Forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.	Hate mail, email or social media posts, verbal or physical abuse in public places or residential settings, damage to property, target of unrequested services Tendency to withdrawal and isolation, Fearfulness and anxiety, being refused access to services or being excluded inappropriately, Loss of self-esteem, resistance to access services required to meet need, anger and frustration.
Organisational abuse	Neglect and poor care practice within care settings or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice because of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.	Inadequate staffing levels People being hungry or dehydrated, poor standards of care, lack of personal clothing and possessions, communal use of personal items, lack of adequate procedures, absence of individual care plans, missing documents.

Type of Abuse	Description	Signs or Indicators
Neglect and acts of omission	Ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.	Dirty or unhygienic environment, poor physical condition or personal hygiene, pressure sores or ulcers, malnutrition or unexplained weight loss, untreated injuries and medical problems, untaken medication, inadequate clothing.
Self-neglect	This covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.	Very poor personal hygiene lack of essential food, clothing or shelter, malnutrition or dehydration living in squalid or unsanitary conditions, neglecting household maintenance, collecting a large number of animals in inappropriate conditions, Non-compliance with health or care services

F. Other Concerns

Adults at risk may also experience other forms of abuse, neglect or harm, including but not limited to the following:

F.1 Hate Crime

A hate crime is any criminal offence that is motivated by hostility or prejudice based upon the victim's disability, race, religion or belief, sexual orientation or transgender identity. Hate crime can take many forms including physical attacks, the threat of attack and intimidation, verbal abuse, abusive gestures, bullying, and the use of electronic media to abuse, insult, taunt or harass. Hate crime should be reported to the local police.

F.2 Forced marriage

Forced marriage is a term used to describe a marriage in which one or both of the parties are married without their consent or against their will. You must contact the police if you encounter a situation where there is concern that an adult at risk is being forced into a marriage they do not or cannot consent to.

F.3 Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM is a procedure where the female genitals are injured or changed and there is no medical reason for this. It is frequently a very traumatic and violent act for the victim and can cause harm in many ways. The practice can cause severe pain and there may be immediate and/or long-term health consequences, including mental health problems, difficulties in childbirth, causing danger to the child and mother, and/or death. FGM is a criminal offence – it is child abuse and a form of violence against women and girls. It is illegal in England and Wales under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003. The Serious Crime Act 2015 introduced a mandatory reporting duty that requires specified professionals to report known cases of FGM in under 18s to the police.

F.4 Prevent – Preventing radicalisation and extremism

The Prevent strategy forms part of the UK's Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015). It places a legal duty on the organisation to have 'due regard' to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism. Prevent ostensibly aims to provide support and re-direction to vulnerable individuals at risk of being groomed into terrorist activity before any crimes are committed. Radicalisation is comparable to other forms of exploitation, such as grooming and coercion; it aims to attract people persuade vulnerable individuals to adopt extreme views, persuade them to the legitimacy of their cause, and act contrary to their best interests. This may be direct through a relationship, or through social media.

The Winch has a specific policy on Prevent, which you must consult. If there is any doubt as to whether a form of harm experienced by an adult at risk falls under the Prevent Duty or a safeguarding duty, then the safeguarding process should take precedent in the first instance.

Please refer to our core Safeguarding and Child Protection procedures.

G. What to do if you have a concern

If you have a concern in relation to an adult at risk, or an individual's or institutional relationship with an adult at risk, you should raise this with a member of Winch staff or your line manager at the Winch. They will explore the concern with you in order to evaluate how the concern you should address it.

If your line manager is not available, then you should raise this with a safeguarding lead. The safeguarding leads names are 'public knowledge' and can be shared. The CEO of the Winch is the Dedicated Safeguarding Lead. *Appendix A* provides the names and contact details of the safeguarding leads at the Winch. *Appendix B* outlines the operational procedures for escalating a concern.

If your concern is about a member of staff or volunteer at the Winch, please refer to the Winch procedures on raising allegations against staff.

H. Confidentiality & Information Sharing

The Winch has adopted clear principles of confidentiality in relation to children, young people and adults in our care. All personal records and sensitive data relating to individuals must be stored securely and in line with our Data Protection Policy.

It is a legal requirement that agencies and professionals work together around safeguarding issues and to do this effectively we need to be able to share information. The General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) allows organisations to share special information about clients without their consent, in some limited circumstances:

- To protect the vital interests of an individual. 'Vital interests' generally applies to matters of life and death, and in circumstances where the individual is physically or legally incapable of giving consent.
- Where the individual lacks capacity to give meaningful consent
- Where the use of information for the provision of social care, treatment, system and services.

We will therefore never give an assurance of absolute confidentiality and concerns about confidentiality must not over-ride our safeguarding responsibilities.

Information sharing is guided by the following general principles, in order to ensure the sharing is:

- Necessary
- Proportionate
- Relevant,
- Accurate,
- Timely and
- Secure

In most cases, you must seek consent from the relevant individual(s) to share information. In all cases where you share information in relation to a disclosure, you must record this, secure any records and inform the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

I. Whistleblowing

Whistleblowing is making a disclosure in the public interest and occurs when a member of staff or volunteer (or member of the public) raises a concern about danger or illegality that affects others, for example young people attending the Winch. All staff members should be aware of the duty to raise concerns about the attitude or actions of staff in line with the Code of Conduct, Safeguarding Policy and Whistleblowing policy.

We want everyone to feel able to report any child protection / safeguarding concerns. However, for members of staff who feel unable to raise these concerns internally, they can seek advice from Protect, the Whistleblowing Charity or the NSPCC.

Appendix A

Safeguarding at the Winch

If you have a safeguarding concern about a child, young person or adult at the Winch, please talk to a member of staff, who will try to help or direct you to help.

The **Designated Safeguarding Lead** at the Winch is:

Rashid Iqbal
Chief Executive Office
Contact: Rashid@thewinch.org
Tel: 02075868731

The Safeguarding Manager for young people **aged under-11** (Primary Years) is:

Kim Mabbut
Play Development Officer
Contact: Play@thewinch.org
Tel: 02075868731

The Safeguarding Manager for young people and young adults aged **11-25** is:

Jim Chynoweth
Head of Youth
Contact: Jim@thewinch.org
Tel: 02075868731

The Safeguarding Manager for adults at risk in the community is:

Alice Robson
Head of Communities
Contact: Alice@thewinch.org
Tel: 02075868731

The **Lead Safeguarding Trustee** and Safeguarding Champion is Sue Godwin

If you are worried about a child or young person, you can contact Camden Council Children and Families Contact Team on 02079743317.
If you are worried or concerned about an adult at risk, you can contact Adult Social Care on 02079744000.
If you have a concern about a member of our staff or volunteer, please let us know and we will raise it with the Local Authority Designated Officer in Camden Council.

Appendix B Safeguarding Escalation Procedure

