

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS

Policy Statement for Adults At Risk

The Brain Tumour Charity believes that safeguarding adults at risk is of paramount importance. Through the implementation of this policy, the Brain Tumour Charity will demonstrate its commitment to safeguarding all adults at risk who come into contact with our charity.

Policy aim

The Brain Tumour Charity may come into contact with adults at risk as part of its activities. This may include face to face contact at events or as part of the charities fundraising activities. Please refer to the **Face-To-Face fundraising guidance** for more detail about how the charity safeguards our community in these circumstances. Being a digital first charity, The Brain Tumour Charity is also likely to come into contact with adults at risk, or their carers, through support online, email, social media, Live Chat and also via telephone and post.

The purpose of this policy statement is to:

- Protect adults at risk who are in contact with The Brain Tumour Charity.
- Provide staff and volunteers and our community with the overarching principles that guide our approach to safeguarding.

This policy applies to all staff, the board of trustees, volunteers (including students and ambassadors), or anyone working on behalf of The Brain Tumour Charity.

Legal framework

The Care Act 2014 has six key principles which should underpin all adult safeguarding work.

Empowerment: Presumption of person led decisions and informed consent.

Prevention: It is better to take action before harm occurs.

Proportionality: decisions should be proportionate and the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

Protection: support and representation for those in greatest need.

Partnership: local solutions through services working with their communities.

Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

The Mental Capacity Act (2005)

A key difference between safeguarding adults and children is that adults have the right to make their own decisions. Only in extreme situations where an individual is considered to lack capacity will the law intervene to protect them. The guiding principles of the Mental Capacity Act are:

- An individual should be presumed to have capacity and assumptions should not be made about an individuals ability to make their own decisions due to a medical condition or disability.
- Individuals should be supported to make their own decisions.
- People have the right to make unwise decisions.

- Where it is assessed that someone lacks capacity, any decisions made on their behalf must be done in their best interests.
- All decisions made on an individual's behalf should be made via the least restrictive option.

Definitions

Safeguarding Adults at risk means protecting their right to live in safety free from abuse or neglect. Safeguarding duties for adults at risk apply when working with anyone aged 18 or 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.
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect (The Care Act, 2014).

An adult at risk of abuse may:

- Have an illness affecting their mental or physical health.
- Have a learning disability.
- Suffer from drug or alcohol problems.
- Be frail.

The abuse of adults at risk

Abuse is a selfish act of oppression and injustice, exploitation and manipulation of power by those in a position of authority. This can be caused by those inflicting harm or those who fail to act to prevent harm. Abuse is not restricted to any socio-economic group, gender or culture.

The Care and Support Statutory Guidance Issued under the Care Act 2014 recognised the following categories of abuse that may be experienced by adults. However it is important to note that abuse can take on many different forms and is not solely limited to the below.

- Self-neglect
- Modern Slavery
- Domestic abuse
- Discriminatory
- Organisational
- Physical
- Sexual
- Financial or material
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Emotional or Psychological

Further information about the **types of abuse** and are available on the Ann Craft Trust website and on the charities 'Safeguarding Adults' training on The Charity Academy.

The Brain Tumour Charity recognises that:

- The welfare of adults at risk is of paramount importance.
- All people, regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, or sexual orientation have an equal right to protection from all types of harm or abuse.
- Some adults are additionally vulnerable because of their care or support needs or because of past experiences.
- Working in partnership with adults at risk, their carers or families, communities and local agencies is essential in promoting their welfare.

We will seek to keep adults at risk safe by:

- Valuing, listening to and protecting them.
- Empowering them to make their own decisions.
- Prioritising the dignity, safety and well-being of the individual.
- Prioritising actions to protect, and be inclusive of adults at risk and prioritise actions that prevent harm from occurring.
- All staff conduct themselves in a manner that respects the dignity, pride and identity of adults at risk.
- Ensuring staff can access support and training to help them understand and respond to adult at risk concerns
- Following safer recruitment practices.
- Recording, storing and using information professionally and securely, in line with data protection legislation and guidance.
- Ensuring that we provide a safe physical environment for adults at risk by applying health and safety measures in accordance with the law and regulatory guidance.
- Using our safeguarding policy and procedure to share concerns and relevant information with agencies who need to know, and involving adults at risk, their families and carers where appropriate.
- Using our procedures to manage any allegations against staff and volunteers appropriately.
- Building a safeguarding culture where staff and volunteers, adults at risk and their carers and families, treat each other with respect and are comfortable about sharing concerns.
- Complying with the Fundraising Code of Practice (detailed within **our Face-To-Face fundraising guidance**) when we are working with adults at risk.

Specifically with regards to E-Safety:

- The Safeguarding lead will oversee the Charity's approach to E-Safety along with the Safeguarding Team. We will respond to concerns about online abuse in line with The Brain Tumour Charity's Safeguarding policy and procedure.
- We will be mindful of the fact that adults at risk can be both victims and perpetrators of online abuse.
- We will provide clear and specific directions to staff and volunteers on how to behave online including Sections 12 (Use of Company IT Hardware, Software or Other Equipment) and 13 (Social Networking Policy) of the Employee Handbook.
- We will support adults who use our social media channels to do so in a way that keeps them safe and shows respect for others. We post content in our Facebook Groups to encourage all members of the group to keep themselves safe by not sharing any personal information including their address or bank details. Members who sign up to our closed Facebook Groups are also sent a code of conduct upon joining the group.
- We will ensure personal information about the adults involved in our organisation is held securely and shared only as appropriate
- We will provide supervision and support for staff and volunteers about how to moderate our online groups and respond to any concerns identified online.
- We will risk assess any new social media platforms and technologies before they are used within the organisation.

Responsibilities

Every member of staff or volunteer is responsible for familiarising themselves with the content of this policy and the associated safeguarding policies and procedures. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and it is down to the individual to raise concerns appropriately and in line with the Safeguarding procedure.

The Safeguarding Team are responsible for reviewing and deciding on the best course of action for all safeguarding enquiries which are received from staff across the charity. The safeguarding team consists of staff members from Officer to 'Head Of' level and they bring expertise and experience from a wide range of backgrounds including statutory social work.

The safeguarding lead, in consultation with the board of Trustees, will be responsible for regularly updating this policy and ensuring that all employees of the charity are familiar with its contents.

Policy Updated: August 2020

Next review due: August 2021

Named Safeguarding Lead: Rachel Sharp

Named Trustee Safeguarding Lead: Philippa Murray