

VULNERABLE ADULTS PROTECTION POLICY

INTRODUCTION

The Blackdown Support Group is committed to ensuring that vulnerable people who use our services are not abused and that working practices minimise the risk of such abuse. Staff, volunteers and trustees of the Blackdown Support Group have a duty to identify abuse and report it.

DEFINITION

Vulnerable adults are people who are 18 years of age and over and are receiving or may need help and services to live in the community. Vulnerable adults may be unable to take care of themselves and unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation by other people.

Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and can be perpetrated by anyone. Abuse can take one or more of the following forms:

- physical,
- financial,
- material,
- sexual,
- psychological,
- discriminatory,
- emotional,
- neglect.

RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES

Responsibilities of the Trustees and the Staff of the Blackdown Support Group.

- To ensure volunteers are aware of vulnerable adult's need for protection
- To notify the appropriate authority, e.g. Adult Social Care via Devon Care Direct 0845 1551 007 or Somerset Direct on 0300 123 2224, if abuse is identified or suspected.
- To ensure that all referrals to services have full information in relation to identified risk and vulnerability.
- To DBS check volunteers that have access to or work with Vulnerable Adults.

- To maintain a register of DBS checks.

Responsibilities of Staff and Volunteers:

- To be familiar with this policy.
- To report abuse to the Co-ordinator or to the Chairman if abuse or harm is suspected.
- To declare any existing or subsequent convictions.

Support for Those who Report Abuse

All those making a complaint or allegation or expressing concern, whether they are staff, volunteers or service users should be reassured that:

- They will be taken seriously.
- Their comments will usually be treated confidentially, but their concerns may be shared with the appropriate authorities if they or others are at significant risk.

The Vulnerable Adult has the Right:

- To be made aware of this policy.
- To have alleged incidents recognised and taken seriously.
- To receive fair and respectful treatment throughout.
- To be involved in any process as appropriate.
- To receive information about the outcome.

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice regularly.

Review Date: December 2016

Approved by Committee on: 14 February 2017

Signed by Chairman: Sarah Folland

Next Review Date: