

**Ipswich and District Talking Newspaper
(Sound On)
Charity no. 272773.**

**Protecting adults at risk of abuse
policy**

**Issue 1.2 – April 2024
Tim Pennick**

1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE

This policy sets out how SOUND ON operates to keep adults at risk of abuse or neglect safe from abuse.

The policy is about stopping abuse where it is happening and preventing abuse where there is a risk that it may occur.

We have a Duty of Care to our volunteers and service users. We are committed to the protection and safety of adults at risk whether they are volunteers and/or participants in our activities. We will protect and support the volunteers who work with us as well as users of our services.

All citizens of the United Kingdom have their rights enshrined within the Human Rights Act 1998.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. For our safeguarding policy to be effective every volunteer, whatever their role, will play their part in keeping people safe.

2. DEFINITIONS

Adult at risk of abuse or neglect

For the purposes of this policy, adult at risk refers to someone over 18 years old who, according to paragraph 42.1 of the Care Act 2014:

- has care and support needs
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- as a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

If someone has care and support needs but is not currently receiving care or support from a health or care service they may still be an adult at risk

3. PERSONS AFFECTED BY THIS POLICY

- All volunteers (Staff)
- All service users
- All visitors and contractors

4. OUR POLICY

- SOUND ON has a zero-tolerance approach to abuse.
- There are no excuses for not taking all reasonable action to protect adults at risk from abuse, exploitation, radicalisation and mistreatment.

- SOUND ON recognises that under the Care Act 2014 it has a duty for the care and protection of adults who are at risk of abuse. It is committed to promoting wellbeing, harm prevention and to responding effectively if concerns are raised.
- The welfare of the adult at risk is paramount and all adults have the right to protection from abuse.
- We are committed to working with appropriate agencies including Suffolk Social Care, Suffolk Safeguarding Teams and the police etc to ensure the reporting of abuse is appropriate and in line with local, national and Charity Commission requirements and Information Sharing guidance.
- We will create an environment where volunteers feel able to raise safeguarding concerns and feel supported with their safeguarding responsibilities
- All volunteers are given an induction to the organisation; which includes awareness of their safeguarding responsibilities and procedures to be followed if they have a safeguarding concern
- Appropriate Safeguarding training is provided to volunteers as part of their induction. Volunteers have a safeguarding refresher course every three years.
- All volunteers are required to report any suspected abuse and be aware of the appropriate reporting and support procedure for safeguarding including the reporting of people at risk of radicalisation and extremism.
- All Volunteers must be clear on appropriate behaviour and responses and follow our agreed Code of Conduct/ Behaviour. Where appropriate, failure by volunteers to maintain standards will be dealt with using SOUND ON's Procedures.
- All volunteers who come into contact with adults at risk of abuse and their families as part of their SOUND ON duties will be alert to possible signs of abuse (detailed in the appendix to this document), and consider whether there may be safeguarding concerns. They will discuss their concerns with the Designated Safeguarding Lead within the Sound On committee (See below for details), to get appropriate support.
- Responsibility for implementing and developing this Policy rests with the Trustees. The overall co-ordinating responsibility for Safeguarding is delegated to the Safeguarding Lead (See below for details). However, the Organisation believes that all who work with or for the organisation have an individual responsibility to abide by the Policy and ensure a personal involvement in its application.
- The Designated Safeguarding Lead for SOUND ON (See below for details) will fulfil their safeguarding responsibilities in a way that ensures that adults are safeguarded from harm. The Safeguarding Lead is responsible for following up and actioning any reports of suspected abuse.
- Appropriate recruitment of volunteers is in place including policies on when to obtain a DBS check
- A senior member of the committee will have leadership responsibility for SOUND ON's safeguarding arrangements (This role currently held by Andy Gorham, Email andy.gorham.t21@btinternet.com, tel.: 01473-604.632, Mobile: 07917-024.984).
- This policy will be reviewed annually by the Committee.

Version	Date	Changes made	Review date
Issue 1.0	14/09/2021	Appendix Added, and Current version accepted for issue by Management Committee	14/09/2022

Issue 1.1	25/06/2023	Chair is Safe Guarding Lead, also added Version Number in running header	Action Point from Committee Meeting on 19/04/2023
Issue 1.2	23/04/2024	Name of Safeguarding Officer changed to Andy Gorham	Minor change agreed by committee email interchange 23/04/2024

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

APPENDIX – TYPES & SIGNS OF ABUSE

Categories of abuse

Self-neglect

This covers a wide range of behaviour, but it can be broadly defined as neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health, or surroundings. An example of self-neglect is behaviour such as hoarding.

Modern Slavery

This encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour, and domestic servitude.

Domestic Abuse

This includes psychological, physical, sexual, financial, and emotional abuse perpetrated by anyone within a person's family. It also includes so-called "honour" based violence.

Discrimination

Discrimination is abuse that centres on a difference or perceived difference, particularly with respect to race, gender, disability, or any of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act.

Organisational

This includes 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. Organisational abuse can range from one off incidents to ongoing ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

Physical

This includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, restraint, and misuse of medication. It can also include inappropriate sanctions.

Sexual

This includes 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 consenting.

Financial or Material

This includes theft, fraud, internet scamming, and coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions. It can also include the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions, or benefits.

Neglect and Acts of Omission

This includes ignoring medical or physical care needs and failing to provide access to appropriate health social care or educational services. It also includes the withdrawing of the necessities of life, including medication, adequate nutrition, and heating.

Emotional or Psychological

This includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation, or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.

Four Additional Types of Harm

There are four additional types of harm that are not included in The Care Act, but they are also relevant to safeguarding adults.

Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying occurs when someone repeatedly makes fun of another person online, or repeatedly picks on another person through emails or text messages. It can also involve using

online forums with the intention of harming, damaging, humiliating, or isolating another person. It includes various different types of bullying, including racist bullying, homophobic bullying, or bullying related to special education needs and disabilities. The main difference is that, instead of the perpetrator carrying out the bullying face-to-face, they use technology as a means to do it.

Forced Marriage

This 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. A forced marriage differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties consent to the assistance of a third party in identifying a spouse. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 make it a criminal offence to force someone to marry.

Mate Crime

“Mate crime” is when “vulnerable people are befriending by members of the community who go on to exploit and take advantage of them” (Safety Network Project, ARC). It may not be an illegal act, but it still has a negative effect on the individual. A mate crime is carried out by someone the adult knows, and it often happens in private. In recent years there have been a number of Serious Care Reviews relating to people with a learning disability who were seriously harmed, or even murdered, by people who purported to be their friend.

Radicalisation

The aim of radicalisation is to inspire new recruits, embed extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals to the legitimacy of a cause. This may be direct through a relationship, or through social media.