

Penwith Community Development Trust

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Procedure

Introduction

PCDT has signed up to the Multi-Agency Policy for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse and Neglect in Cornwall. It has a commitment to ensure all staff and volunteers understand and adhere to the principles and procedures within that policy. As part of this commitment staff and volunteers who may work with vulnerable adults will be given more in depth training.

For further information and a copy of the multi-agency policy see:

www.cornwall.gov.uk/adultprotection

1. **Who is a Vulnerable Adult?**

- 1.1 A vulnerable adult is a person who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness, **and** who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.
- 1.2 The Cornwall multi-agency policy relates to adults of 18 years of age or over. Children under the age of 18 years are protected by the Children Act 1989. A person is a "child" until they reach 18 years of age or until they get married.
- 1.2 The term "community care services" includes all social and health care services provided in any setting or context.
- 1.3 The term "harm" should be taken to include not only ill treatment (including sexual abuse and forms of ill treatment that are not physical), but also the impairment of, or an avoidable deterioration in, physical or mental health. It should also be taken to include the impairment of physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.

(Definitions from "No Secrets" – Department of Health, 2000)

2. **What is abuse?**

- 2.1 Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons.
- 2.2 Abuse can consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal, or psychological. It may be an act of neglect or an omission to act, or it may occur when a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which he or she has not consented or cannot consent.
- 2.3 Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it.

(Definitions from "No Secrets" – Department of Health, 2000)

3. **Disclosure**

- 3.1 If a disclosure of alleged abuse is made to a member of staff it is not their responsibility to investigate the allegation, they should contact the named Safeguarding Adult Lead Person within PCDT who will take the matter forward in line with the Cornwall multi-agency policy. They will

require a certain amount of information from you which will include details of the person who has disclosed that they have been abused and the person they allege to be the abuser, the type of abuse, where the abuse has taken place and when.

3.2 The named PCDT Safeguarding Adult Lead Person is:

Bernie Hall Tel: (01736) 788742 Mob: (0794 685 1057)

In the absence of Bernie Hall please contact the deputy:

Phil Russell Tel: (01736) 788742 Mob: (0759 556 7679)

3.3 If the allegation is against the main named Safeguarding Adult Lead Person, the deputy should be contacted.

3.4 If further disclosures are made by the same vulnerable adult, without evidence of any action being taken from the original disclosure, immediate contact should be made to the named Safeguarding Adult Lead Person and the Deputy to ensure the allegation is being suitably dealt with.

4. **Confidentiality**

4.1 All information supplied to the PCDT Safeguarding Adult Lead Person (or deputy in their absence) should not be subject to further discussion with **anyone** else, unless information is specifically requested by someone involved in the Safeguarding Adults Process. If there is any doubt the PCDT Safeguarding Adult Lead Person or the deputy should be contacted to clarify the situation and provide guidance.

4.2 Staff should be aware that the information provided by the employee or volunteer to the PCDT Safeguarding Adult Lead Person will be acted upon in accordance with the Multi-Agency Policy for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse and Neglect in Cornwall.

4.3 No guarantees that the information will remain confidential should be made to the person making the disclosure, because as part of the multi-agency policy there is an obligation for all allegations to be investigated.

Safeguarding Adults Process Flowchart

