

MELTON MOWBRAY & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY (MM&DHS)

ADULT SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Introduction:

MM&DHS believes in protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. This policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of MM&DHS in working together in promoting the adult's welfare and safeguarding them from abuse and neglect.

This policy, in so far as it applies to Society business, is to make sure that MM&DHS has all the right procedures in place to protect and safeguard adults. It applies to all members of the MM&DHS and any failure to comply with the policy and/or its related procedures should be reported in the first instance to a member of the Committee.

Note: These procedures apply specifically to the MM&DHS, but the Society recognises that in some circumstances they may be in addition to, or subject to, the Policy of another organisation who's Policy may take primacy.

All Committee Members, Volunteers and Group Members should be made aware of how this policy can be accessed.

Background:

Care Act 2014

Definition of an Adult at Risk of Abuse:

Where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there)

- a. Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- b. Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- c. As a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect, or the risk of it.

Key Principles of Adult Safeguarding:

In the safeguarding of adults, MM&DHS are guided by the six key principles set out in “The Care Act 2014” and making “Safeguarding” personal. MM&DHS aims to demonstrate and promote these principles in all our activities. The principles are:

- **Empowerment** People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
- **Prevention** It is better to take action before harm occurs.
- **Proportionality** 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.
- **Communities** Have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
- **Accountability** Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

Recognising the signs of abuse:

Whilst all members of the society may see or hear something that might alarm them Committee Members and Volunteers are well-placed to identify abuse when someone may say or do things that let you know something is wrong. This may come in the form of a disclosure, complaint, or an expression of concern but everyone within the organisation should understand what to do, and where to go to get help, support and advice.

Types of Abuse:

The Care Act 2014 defines the following ten areas of abuse. These are not exhaustive but are a guide to behaviour that may lead to a safeguarding enquiry. This includes:

- **Physical abuse** - Including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.
- **Domestic Violence/ Domestic Abuse** - Including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honor' based violence.
- **Exploitation**- Including sexual and/or criminal exploitation
- **Sexual abuse** - Including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography. Witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.
- **Psychological abuse** - Including 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.
- **Financial or material abuse** - Including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- **Modern slavery** - Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and those who coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.
- **Discriminatory abuse** - Including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment because you are, or are perceived to be different due to race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.
- **Organisational abuse** - Including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to long-term ill treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes or practices within an organisation.
- **Neglect and acts of omission** - Including 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.

Radicalisation to Terrorism:

The Government through its "PREVENT" programme has highlighted how some adults may be vulnerable to exploitation and radicalisation and involvement in terrorism. Signs and indicators of radicalisation may include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters.
- Articulating support for violent extremist causes or leaders.
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element.
- Possessing violent extremist literature.

- Using extremist narratives to explain personal disadvantage.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.
- Joining extremist organisations.
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour.

Reporting Concerns:

Any committee member, volunteer or member of the Society who becomes aware that an adult is, or is at risk of, being abused must raise the matter immediately with a member of the committee. If the adult requires immediate protection from harm, contact should be made with the Police in the first instance, who may then contact Adult Social Care via Melton Borough Council (MBC). Early sharing of information is the key to providing an effective response where there are emerging concerns. To ensure effective safeguarding arrangements no one should assume that someone else will do it.

Is there a Person in a Position of Trust Involved?

In any instance of safeguarding, consideration must be given as to whether an allegation has been made against a person in a position of trust (PiPoT) and who may be a risk to others. This can be anyone from a formal employee or volunteer, to an informal carer. In any situation where this might be a factor the issue should be raised with a member of the committee as soon as practicable.

Awareness:

To ensure that the MM&DHS continues to comply with its safeguarding responsibilities all those in a position of responsibility should:

- Understanding what safeguarding is and their role in running of the organization.
- Recognising a potential need for safeguarding and when to take action.
- Understand how to report a safeguarding Alert.
- Understand dignity and respect when working with individuals.
- Have knowledge of the Safeguarding Policy.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing:

MM&DHS expects all its members to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). In an emergency situation where an individual is thought to be at risk of harm, where they are in immediate danger or where a crime has been committed and the police have been called consideration must also be given to whether the Local Authority should be informed.

Recording and Record Keeping:

A written record must be kept about any concern regarding an adult with safeguarding needs. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, together with the decisions taken and why they were made.

All records must be signed and dated. All records must be securely and confidentially stored in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Important Contacts:

Secretary:

Name: Vaughan Gregory.

Email address: sec.mmhs@yahoo.com

Telephone number: 07512 101441

Chairman:

Name: Andrew Wade.

Email address: thewadefamily@btopenworld.com

Telephone number:

Police

Emergency – 999

Non-emergency – 101