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Protection of Vulnerable Adults Policy

Foresight (North East Lincolnshire) Limited adheres to the multi-agency policy, procedures and practice guidelines for the protection of vulnerable people in North East Lincolnshire.

Foresight (North East Lincolnshire) Limited concurs with the definitions outlined in the aforementioned policy for “Who is a vulnerable adult”; “What is abuse”; “Who abuses”.

Foresight (North East Lincolnshire) Limited staff and volunteers will follow the guidelines set out in the aforementioned policy for alerting appropriately where there is concern about possible abuse.

The Manager will ensure that copies of the policy, procedures and practice guidelines and information leaflets are kept in the office and are accessible to staff and volunteers.

The Manager has responsibility for ensuring that all staff and volunteers are made aware of the policy, procedures and practice guidelines for the protection of vulnerable adults and know where copies are held within the office.

The Manager will ensure that a copy of the leaflet “The Protection of Vulnerable Adults” is kept in the Foresight (North East Lincolnshire) Limited Policy and Procedures file alongside this document.

A new multi-agency policy and set of procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse has been developed. This leaflet aims to help staff and volunteers identify abuse of vulnerable adults in North East Lincolnshire.

Who is a vulnerable adult?

The term "vulnerable adult" refers to any person aged 18 years or over 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 himself or herself: or
- Unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or serious exploitation.

Vulnerable adults could include older people, people with a visual or hearing impairment, severe physical illness, learning disability or mental health problem, people with HIV or AIDS, substance abusers and even carers.

What is abuse?

Abuse is the violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person. For the purpose of the procedures in North East Lincolnshire, abuse is defined as "the physical, sexual, financial, emotional or psychological harm or neglect of a vulnerable person" reflecting the commonly recognised forms of abuse.

Abuse can happen anywhere, such as at home, in a residential or nursing home, a hospital, on the street, in the workplace, in a day care centre or educational establishment.

Physical abuse: such as hitting, pushing, shaking, over-medication or otherwise causing physical harm.

Sexual abuse: sexual activity where a vulnerable adult cannot or does not give their consent.

Financial or material abuse: such as fraud or theft, or using a vulnerable adult's property without their permission.

Emotional or psychological abuse: such as shouting or swearing at or ignoring a vulnerable adult; denying their rights so as to cause distress; and the use of racist language in relation to your colour, religion, nationality/culture, sexuality or disability.

Neglect: is where a person allows a vulnerable adult to suffer by not fulfilling their care responsibilities.

Who abuses?

The person responsible for abuse is often well known to the person being abused. They may be:

- A relative, friend or neighbour;
- A paid or volunteer carer;
- A health, social care or other worker;
- Another resident or service user; or
- An occasional visitor or service provider.

Your prime responsibilities are to call the emergency services, if necessary, and to report any concerns to your line manager.

Alerting

The following action must be taken by all staff and volunteers, who are concerned about possible abuse:

- Reassure the victim that family do not have to be informed of the allegations if that is their wish
- Obtain medical treatment and contact emergency services if this is needed.
- Listen carefully if a vulnerable adult discloses abuse to ensure that they are heard and not discouraged from reporting abuse.
- Clarify the bare facts of the reported abuse or grounds for suspicion of abuse. Avoid going into detail about the abuse with the victim and do not speak with the perpetrator about what has happened.
- Explain that you must inform your line manager. See how the victim of abuse feels about involving others such as the Police and the Community Care Directorate.
- Report concerns to your line manager as soon as possible.
- Make an accurate record of the allegations or grounds for suspecting abuse.

What is Prevent?

The Prevent strategy, published by the Government in 2011, is part of our overall counter-terrorism strategy. The aim of the Prevent strategy is to reduce the threat to the UK from terrorism by stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. In the Act this has simply been expressed as the need to “prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

This strategy is based on four areas of work:

- Pursue to stop terrorist attacks
- Prevent to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- Protect to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
- Prepare to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

Our Aims of Prevent

At Foresight we:

- Raise awareness within the centre of the threat from violent extremist groups and the risks for people.
- Provide information about what can cause violent extremism, about preventative actions taking place locally and nationally and where we can get additional information and advice.
- Help learners, volunteers and staff members to understand the positive contribution they can make to empower people to create communities that are more resilient to extremism, and protecting the wellbeing of particular individuals or groups who may be vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremist activity.
- Provide advice on managing risks and responding to incidents locally, nationally or internationally that might have an impact on the community.
- Will follow the channel process and refer any concerns to the local Channel panel that will be completed by our Safeguarding Officer/Prevent Lead.

Our designated Safeguarding Officer is Paul Silvester and can be contacted on 01472 269666.

This information is also available in other formats, languages and picture format upon request.