

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS POLICY STATEMENT

SW Herts U3a recognises that some older people are potentially at risk of abuse and neglect. Abuse and neglect can take place in a person's own home, in the home of a carer, family member or friend, in a place where care is provided: SW Herts u3a also recognises that abuse and neglect can be perpetrated by staff, volunteers, other service users, relatives, friends and neighbours.

SW Herts u3a acknowledges that the reasons for abuse and neglect occurring are not fully understood and vary with each incident, often dependant on risk factors. They can include poor quality long-term relationships, poor coping strategies, mental health issues, isolation, dependency and co-dependency as well as inadequate staff development, support and supervision.

SW Herts u3a will neither condone nor tolerate any form of abuse or neglect and believes that all people should be able, and where necessary, enabled to live in an environment which is safe from abuse and neglect.

In all situations, SW Herts u3a believes that everyone is entitled to:

- Privacy,
- Be treated with dignity and respect
- Lead an independent life and be enabled to do so
- Choose how they live their lives
- The protection of the law
- Have their human and civil rights upheld regardless of ethnic origin, gender, sexuality, impairment or disability, age, religious or cultural background

Where abuse or neglect is suspected, SW Herts u3a will aim to respond to the situation in a way which is caring, effective, enabling, influencing and innovative. In such situations it is not appropriate for SW Herts u3a to take a lead role in any Safeguarding Enquiry under Section 43 of the Care Act, but will refer this to the Local Authority.

SW Herts u3a recognises that good adult safeguarding is predicated on good practice.

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

1. This Policy and Procedure is written to enable the committee and volunteers of SW Herts u3a to act appropriately whenever possible or when actual abuse or neglect comes to their attention.
2. All volunteers who act in accordance with this Policy and Procedure will be supported by SW Herts u3a. Failure to do so may result in the implementation of disciplinary procedures.
3. SW Herts u3a recognises that adults at risk, as defined in the above, can be either the victim or perpetrator of abuse.
4. SW Herts u3a recognises that, through its day-to-day activities, its volunteers may be in a position to be key in the identification of abuse and neglect of adults at risk.

This policy was adopted by SW Herts u3a on 01/05/2018 and will be reviewed every 2years.

SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURE

1. All volunteers who become aware of possible or actual abuse or neglect will ensure that the safety of the adult at risk is secured as a first priority.
2. Any member volunteer who becomes aware of possible or actual abuse will, as soon as possible record the details of the abuse using form SAP1.
3. The Trustee or Safeguarding Officer, having been advised of the possible or actual abuse, will satisfy themselves that the adult at risk is safe and that the perpetrator, if known, does not pose a threat to any other adult at risk.
4. As far as possible, the adult at risk's wishes will be respected as to whether or not to refer any concerns to the Local Authority as a Safeguarding Enquiry under Section 42 of the Care Act.
5. All incidents where an SAP1 form has been completed will be advised to the Trustees. Confidentiality must be adhered to at all times therefore the contents of the form will not be provided to third parties.

APPENDICES (for the Safeguarding officer)

- Appendix 1 Key Definitions
- Appendix 2 SAP1 form Disclosure and Reporting form
- Appendix 3 Contact Details of the Safeguarding Officer: Peter Dawson

In the event of becoming aware of actual or suspected abuse or neglect, contact the Safeguarding Officer or a Committee (Trustee) member to report concerns or for advice or support.

- Appendix 4 Contact Details for Social Services:
- Appendix 5 Procedure