

SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY



Photographers with Disabilities (PWD) provides the following activities

- Photoshoots
- Weekly workshop/tutorial

Whilst these do not include direct services or support for vulnerable adults Photographers with Disabilities (PWD) recognises that an adult may become vulnerable at many stages in their life.

Photographers with Disabilities (PWD) is committed therefore to ensure that the Management Committee, volunteers and those who participate in activities run by the organisation have an understanding of what forms abuse may take and that they know where to raise concerns if abuse is suspected or reported.

Definition of Vulnerable Adults

Someone '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 themselves or protect themselves from harm'

[No Secrets: Department of Health, March 2000]

This means that not all adults are vulnerable but some may be vulnerable at times and others will be vulnerable all the time. It is important to talk to the appropriate people (in South Gloucestershire this is the Adult Customer Service Desk in the Children, Adult and Health Department of the Council).

Definition of Abuse

"Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons"

[No Secrets: Department of Health, March 2000]

Abuse includes:

- physical abuse, hitting, slapping, punching, burning
- sexual abuse, rape, indecent assault, inappropriate touching
- emotional abuse, belittling, name calling
- financial or material abuse, stealing, selling assets
- neglect and acts of omission, leaving in soiled clothes, failing to feed properly
- discriminatory abuse (including racist, sexist, based on a person's disability and other forms of harassment)
- institutional

Abuse may be carried out deliberately or unknowingly. Abuse may be a single act or repeated acts.

People may make the choice to remain in abusive situations and if they have the mental capacity to make that decision that may be appropriate, however the decision about mental capacity is a complex one and it is important that the correct assessment of capacity is undertaken within the safeguarding process.

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It is important to remember that abuse is defined by the impact on the individual not the intention of the abuser, in other words if someone does not have their needs cared for this can be just as damaging whether it is done deliberately or because a carer can no longer manage. Obviously the way of then supporting the situation would be likely to be different.

People who behave abusively come from all backgrounds and walks of life. They may be doctors, nurses, social workers, advocates, staff members, volunteers or others in a position of trust. They may also be relatives, friends, neighbours or people who use the same services as the person experiencing abuse.

Advice and information

Where possible, agreement should be obtained from the adult before sharing personal information with third parties. South Gloucestershire Council Customer Service Desk Adult Care Team can be accessed for advice or information contact 01454 868007

Reporting Concerns

If a crime may have been committed contact the Police on 101 or 999

Where possible, agreement should be obtained from the adult before sharing personal information with third parties.

To raise a concern contact South Gloucestershire Council's Customer Adult Care Team service desk on 01454 868007.

Record Keeping

If a concern is raised, this should be documented and sent through to the Trustee Chair or Secretary.

Managing allegations against volunteers

Any allegation will be fully investigated and volunteers will be supported during this process. It is important that allegations are thoroughly investigated through the Safeguarding process so that either allegations can be proved or disproved for the protection of both vulnerable adults and staff.

Review of This Policy

Photographers with Disabilities will review this policy annually as required in Government Guidance to Charities.

Adopted initially on 3rd September 2013

Reviewed by the Management Committee on19 February 2024

Signed(Nigel Owen)
(state position in groupVice-Chair.....)