

Mount Morris Library

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

Purpose

This policy defines 'safeguarding', 'abuse' and gives other relevant information about safeguarding. It also tells people what they should do if they see or suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding means protecting people's health, well being and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

Safeguarding is about protecting certain people who may be in a vulnerable situation. These people may be at risk of abuse or neglect if someone else does something that they should not do or does not do what they should do.

Safeguarding adults includes:

- Protecting their rights to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- People and organizations working together to prevent the risk of abuse or neglect, and to stop abuse or neglect from happening.
- Making sure people's well being is promoted, taking their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs into account.

What is abuse?

Abuse is a misuse of power and control that one person has over another. Where someone is dependent on another, there is the possibility of abuse or neglect unless enough safeguards are put in place.

It can happen when a vulnerable adult is persuaded into a financial or sexual exchange they have not consented to, or cannot consent to. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm or exploitation.

Some types of abuse are illegal. If [the Mount Morris Library suspects that a crime against a person has been committed, we refer the matter to the police. Sometimes an urgent referral to police is made for the safety of the vulnerable adult or to preserve evidence.

Types of Abuse

Abuse can take many forms. It might not comfortably fit into any of these categories, or it might fit into more than one.

1. Physical

This includes assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, giving the wrong (or no) medication, restraining someone or only letting them do certain things at certain times.

2. Domestic

This includes psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse. It also covers so-called 'honor' based violence.

3. Sexual

This includes rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, taking sexual photographs, making someone look at pornography or watch sexual acts, sexual assault or sexual acts the adult did not consent to or was pressured into consenting.

4. Psychological

This includes emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, depriving someone of contact with someone else, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, putting pressure on someone to do something, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or support networks.

5. Financial or material

This includes theft, fraud, internet scamming, putting pressure on someone about their financial arrangements (including wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions) or the misuse or stealing of property, possessions or benefits.

6. Modern slavery

This covers slavery (including domestic slavery), human trafficking and forced labor. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever they can to pressurize, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse and inhumane treatment.

7. Discriminatory

This includes types of harassment or insults because of someone's race, gender or gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

8. Organizational

This includes neglect and poor care in an institution or care setting such as a hospital or care home, or if an organization provides care in someone's home. The abuse can be a one-off incident or repeated, on-going ill treatment. The abuse can be through neglect or poor professional practice that might be because of structure, policies, processes and practices within an organization.

9. Neglect and acts of omission

This includes ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to educational services, or not giving someone what they need to help them live, such as medication, enough nutrition and heating.

10. Self-neglect

This happens when someone is not caring for their own personal hygiene, health or surroundings. It may include hoarding.