

THREE RIVERS TALKING NEWSPAPER: SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Three Rivers Talking Newspaper takes seriously its responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of everyone and especially its listener members, who may be regarded as Vulnerable Adults at risk, as they are typically visually impaired and may have additional disabilities.

Safeguarding adults includes protecting people's rights to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is also about promoting well-being, providing protection from harm and taking views, wishes, feelings and beliefs into account.

Safeguarding at Three Rivers TN

Aside from occasional public events, such as AGM, social or fundraising events, direct interaction with listeners is limited to those volunteers with a specific remit to do so, e.g enrolling new listeners (typically undertaken by phone) or home visits to set up audio equipment.

NB: All Three Rivers TN volunteers who are tasked to have personal interaction with listeners, either by telephone or home visit, must be DBS checked. Where possible, home visits to listeners are carried out in the presence of a carer/family member.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Emma Welton is the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL). She can be contacted on 01508 518565 or by email on emmawelton20@gmail.com

Recognising Abuse

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment of a Vulnerable Adult. Somebody may abuse or neglect an adult by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Vulnerable Adults may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting, by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger.

Abuse may take many forms and may include criminal activity. It may take the form of one or any combination of the types listed below:

- **Physical abuse**
Possible Indicators: Multiple bruising; Fractures; Burns; Bed sores; Fear; Depression; Unexplained weight loss.
- **Neglect and Acts of Omission**
Possible Indicators: Malnutrition; Untreated medical problems; Confusion; Over-sedation.
- **Psychological/Emotional abuse**
Possible Indicators: Fear; Depression; Confusion; Unexpected or unexplained change in behaviour

- **Sexual abuse**
Possible Indicators: Unexpected or unexplained change in behaviour; Bruising; A preoccupation with anything sexual; Sexually transmitted diseases; Pregnancy
- **Financial and material abuse**
Possible Indicators: Unusual activity in the bank accounts; Unpaid bills; Unexplained shortage of money
- **Organisational abuse**
Possible Indicators: Inflexible and non-negotiable systems and routines; Lack of consideration of dietary requirements; Name calling; inappropriate methods of address; unkempt appearance.
- **Self-neglect**
Possible Indicators: Disregard for personal hygiene, Poor upkeep of surroundings resulting in a risk to wellbeing, e.g. hoarding.
- **Modern Slavery**
Possible indicators: people recently moved from overseas who appear to be under the control of someone else; Reluctance to interact; Owning no personal identification; Few personal belongings.
- **Domestic Abuse**
Possible indicators: can be characterised by any of the indicators of abuse outlined here relating to Physical, Psychological, Financial, Sexual, caused by someone who is or has been an intimate partner or household member
- **Discriminatory Abuse**
Possible indicators: harassment, insults or intimidation due to race, religion, gender, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation.
- **Sexual Exploitation**
Possible indicators: exploitative situations and relationships where the vulnerable adult receives 'something' (e.g. accommodation, alcohol, affection, money) as a result of them performing, or others performing on them, sexual activities

Raising a Concern

Raising a Safeguarding concern means reporting your concerns that a person over 18 years of age who:

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

Guidance for Volunteers – SEE IT, HEAR IT, REPORT IT

It is recognised that a Vulnerable Adult may wish to share information about abuse or neglect. In these situations, use the following principles to respond, bearing in mind you are responsible for referral, not investigation:

- Assure them that you are taking the concerns seriously
- Do not be judgemental or jump to conclusions
- Listen carefully to what they are telling you, stay calm, get as clear a picture as you can.
- Allow them to give a spontaneous account; do not stop them when freely recalling significant events.
- Do not start to investigate or ask detailed or probing questions
- Explain that you have a duty to tell the Lead for Safeguarding
- If you believe that a crime may have been committed explain that you or the Lead will call the Police
- Reassure the person that they will be involved in decisions about them
- Make an accurate record as soon as possible noting what was said or seen, putting the event into context, using their words where possible and giving the date, time and location. All records must be dated and signed.

Alleged Abuse by Volunteers

When concerns or allegations involve Volunteers, immediately contact the **Designated Safeguarding Lead, Emma Welton on 01508 518**

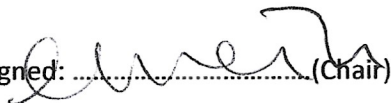
If you think that a crime has been committed call the Police on 999.

Alleged Abuse by Other Persons

Volunteers having a concern through a disclosure or some other means about a listener receiving abuse from another person or persons, immediately contact the **Designated Safeguarding Lead, Emma Welton on 01508 518**

If you think that a crime has been committed call the Police on 999.

This policy was adopted at a Committee meeting of Three Rivers TN on December 2nd 2021 and will be reviewed every two years.

Signed:  (Chair)

Date: 2/12/21