



Policy on the Protection of Vulnerable Adults

Principle

Radley Good Neighbours (RGN) is committed to ensuring that vulnerable people who use our services are not abused and that working practices minimise the risk of such abuse. RGN Volunteers and Committee Members have a duty to identify abuse and report it.

Definitions

Vulnerable adults are people who are over 18 years of age and are getting or may need help and services to live in the community. Vulnerable adults may be unable to take care of themselves and unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation by other people.

Abuse can include:

- physical
- financial
- material
- sexual
- psychological
- discriminatory
- emotional
- neglect

Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and can be perpetuated by anyone.

Rights & Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the RGN Committee:

- a. To ensure Volunteers are aware of vulnerable adults' need for protection
- b. To notify the appropriate agencies if abuse is identified or suspected. It is recommended that first contact is with the Abingdon Age UK office (0844 887 0005) who will advise on the correct agency / agencies to contact.
- c. To support, and where possible secure, the safety of individuals and ensure that all referrals to services have full information in relation to identified risk and vulnerability
- d. To check Committee Members and Volunteers with the Disclosure and Banning Service (DBS) at regular intervals

Responsibilities of RGN Volunteers:

- a. To be familiar with this policy for the protection of vulnerable adults
- b. To take appropriate action in line with this policy
- c. To declare any existing or subsequent convictions

Support for those who report abuse:

All those making a complaint or allegation or expressing concern, whether they are Volunteers, Clients, Committee Members or members of the general public, should be reassured that:

- They will be taken seriously
- Their comments will usually be treated confidentially, but their concerns may be shared with the appropriate authorities if they or others are at significant risk



RADLEY GOOD NEIGHBOURS

The Vulnerable Adult has the right:

- To be made aware of this policy
- To have alleged incidents recognised and taken seriously
- To receive fair and respectful treatment throughout
- To be involved in any process as appropriate
- To receive information about the outcome