

Mark G
5. Oct. 23

SAFEGUARDING/CHILD AND VULNERABLE ADULT POLICY

POLICY STATEMENT:

DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT recognises that users of the service can be vulnerable to or, experiencing abuse or exploitation. DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT has a responsibility to support those who use the service. DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT is committed to raising awareness of abuse and responding effectively. Safeguarding following all the guidance we have available to us should be inclusive and global, so encompassing all the people involved in and in contact with an organisation.

- The framework for safeguarding in Wales is driven by the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014, the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is supported by Welsh Government guidance in Working Together to safeguard people guidance (Welsh Government, 2019). Wales Safeguarding Procedures (Wales Safeguarding Procedures Project Board, 2019). the link to both website <https://www.safeguarding.wales/en/> and app https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.socialcarewales.safeguarding&hl=en_GB&gl=US&pli=1 and to require/request/recommend staff team, appropriate volunteers, lead trustee for safeguarding have access to the Procedures (WSP) for easy reference and compliance.
- The guidance 'Handling Individual Cases' describes the principles that should underpin safeguarding systems for children at risk and (In line with the SS&WA 'What Matters to the child and Family') and to thoroughly assess children and their families to consider the impact of Adverse Childhood experiences (ACES) that could have impacted upon the parental capacity to meet the needs of the child/young person.
- These should be viewed thereon as good practice examples only.

1. DEFINITION OF ABUSE:

Abuse is deemed to have occurred where a person suffers maltreatment or neglect that causes him or her harm due to another person's action or inaction. This can include discriminatory practices, preventing the full and active participation of the individual in peer group activities, and harming the development of the individual.

2. PRINCIPLES OF RESPONSE:

DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT believes that all staff, volunteers, users of our service and agencies working with those who use our service, has a shared responsibility to take action to prevent abuse. Every effort will be made to respect confidentiality whilst sharing information needed to take the most appropriate action.

2.1 DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT acknowledges that all users of the service have the right to self-determination. This means:

- I. Taking note of wishes and feelings and aspirations
- II. Involving the individual as fully as possible in decision making
- III. Ensuring the least restrictive course of action is taken
- IV. Acknowledging the right of people to refuse intervention and services.

2.2 DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT will encourage wherever possible and appropriate the involvement of those significant to the lives of users of our service.

2.3 DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT will protect partners and family relationships where possible and appropriate.

All staff and volunteers working with vulnerable clients have a duty to report suspected or alleged abuse to the Project Manager – Russell Davies -Safeguarding Officer -01745 816949.

3. TYPES OF ABUSE:

been identified as being at risk of abuse, neglect or harm under one or more of the following categories:

- physical abuse
- emotional or psychological abuse
- sexual abuse
- financial abuse
- neglect.
- Criminal Exploitation (CCS), Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) Radicalisation
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Modern Day Slavery

AIMS OF DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT TO REDUCE ABUSE:

DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT aims to seek to ensure that people using our service experience an improved quality of life by:

- a) Reducing the impact of people's problems or disabilities on their daily lives
- b) Respecting and being responsive to individual needs including those arising from a person's race or ethnicity, culture, religion, gender / sexual orientation, disability
- c) Ensuring people's rights as individuals and facilitating the highest feasible degree of self determination

It is DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT aim to protect vulnerable adults from abuse. This is done by promoting and valuing the following practices:

- I. Staff and Volunteers' training and supervision offers support to staff and volunteers, discussion of good practice including matters relating to the reporting of abuse and the protection of vulnerable adults.
- II. DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT believes in having policies in place to protect both workers and service users, examples include: Lone Worker Policy, Equal opportunities Policy, Health & Safety Policy, Complaints Policy

GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW IN THE EVENT OF SUSPECTED ABUSE OF A VULNERABLE ADULT

"Vulnerable adult" – this phrase is really only useful in terms of the DBS definition (vulnerable due to age, illness or disability). Under SSWBA, we may have adults with care and support needs, who could be staff, volunteers, trustees, just as easily as service beneficiaries, and be people around whom you place certain accommodations or provide with particular services or support. Then there are adults at risk, defined under the Act as; anyone over 18 years of age who is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect and has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs), and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it. (S 126 of the Social Services and Well-being Act 2014) <https://www.safeguarding.wales/en/glossary/>

The policy applies to all adults, respecting their rights to be treated with respect, dignity and fairness, to be safe in their workplace or when attending your premises for activities. It must be assumed that

an adult has the mental capacity to make their choice whether to give or withhold their consent to a safeguarding report being made about them. The consent conversation must be held with the individual before a safeguarding report is submitted to Social Services, this may fall to the Safeguarding officer, or out by staff working with the individual. Consent or otherwise should be noted on the safeguarding report, with any reasons why it was not discussed or withheld. SS response should be exactly the same in all cases. There are some exceptions when a safeguarding report can be made about an adult without consent, situations where these don't apply e.g. other agencies they might work with to help keep them safe. With under 18's, a safeguarding report can be made without their consent, but as everyone should be informed about your actions and decisions as they affect them, using language appropriate to their understanding, reporting without consent could affect the working relationship you have with that young person.

INITIAL RESPONSE:

1. Listen to the person concerned
2. Do not prejudge any situation
3. Record exactly what you have seen or what has been said to you, include details of; dates, times, place, people concerned
4. Explain that you have a duty to share this information with your Manager and no promise of confidentiality can be made.
5. Report facts to the Manager, as soon as is possible. In cases of extreme urgency where neither the manager nor other person in charge is available a worker can report the concern to the appropriate social services contact or police. The issue must be reported to the person in charge as soon as possible. The worker will provide a written report including what action was taken, who it was reported to and the outcome if known. The report will be held securely in line with the General Data Protection Regulation

ACTION BY MANAGER:

DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT will follow the North Wales Vulnerable Adults Policy:

1. Ensure the safety of the person concerned
2. Establish the facts from the person concerned
3. Provide support (as far as reasonably practicable) to all individuals involved
4. All concerns should be logged (dates, times of incidents and names of those concerned or witnesses) and held securely by the Manager. No investigation must be undertaken by members of staff themselves, beyond finding out enough information to pass to appropriate authorities.
5. Keep a written record of information and action.

CHILD PROTECTION AND DEALING WITH SUSPECTED CHILD ABUSE

Principles of Response

DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT believes that all staff, volunteers, management committee, users of our service and agencies working with those who use our service, has a shared responsibility to take action to prevent abuse.

DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT accepts the principles of the Children Act 1989 and the Protection of Children Act 1999 that the welfare of the child is paramount and follow the Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019. Every person in contact with or working with children, young people or their families; or with adults who may pose a risk to children; or responsible for arranging services for children and/or adults, should:

- Understand their role and responsibilities to safeguard and promote the welfare of children;
- Be familiar with and follow their organisation's procedures and protocols for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and know who to contact in their organisation to express concerns about a child's welfare;

- Be alert to indicators of abuse and neglect;
- Have access to and comply with the Wales Safeguarding Procedures 2019
- Have received child protection training to a level commensurate with their role and responsibilities;
- Know when and how to refer any concerns about child abuse and neglect to social services or the police;
- Know that a child, parent, caregiver, relative or member of the public who expresses concerns about a child's welfare to a professional and /or agency employee must never be asked to make a self-referral to social services or the police. The professional and/or agency employee must make the referral.

GUIDELINES ON WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

These guidelines apply to all staff who come in contact with young people on behalf of DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT.

- Physical contact with a child should be avoided.
- All relevant health and safety regulations should be observed.

All Staff/Volunteers/Trustee will be subject to DBS -Disclosure and Barring Service, safe recruitment, selection and vetting procedures that include checks into the eligibility and the suitability of who have direct or indirect contact with children. DBS check only (unless you drive any adult to health/social services? Then it is regulated activity even just once). Many staff are also placed in a position of trust. WSP Section 5 says all practitioners placed in these roles who are the subject of a safeguarding allegation must be reported to the Local Authority Designated Officer as per the guidance: <https://www.safeguarding.wales/en/adu-i/adu-i-a5/>

In addition, where someone is placed in regulated activity (or might take up regulated activity), the employer is under a duty to refer to the DBS at the point of removing a person from regulated activity (due to posing a safeguarding risk) for barring consideration.

Where a significant number of the workforce are placed in regulated activity, it is recommended that the Trustee positions are subject to enhanced DBS checks, if trustees are not responsible for making welfare decisions and not subject to safeguarding checks

Where any Staff Member/Volunteer/Trustee is found to have infringed the guidelines set out in this document, DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT will follow North Wales Safeguarding Board procedures for handling individual cases. f <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/safeguarding-duties-for-charity-trustees>

GUIDELINES TO FOLLOW WHEN CHILD ABUSE IS SUSPECTED

Any member of staff at DENBIGH YOUTH PROJECT who is concerned about child protection issues should speak, in the first instance, to the Project Manager. If the Project Manager is not then satisfied that appropriate action has been taken, or if further advice is needed they will contact the relevant authorities.

Duty to report

Section 130 of the Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 requires professionals to inform the local authority/Police if they have reasonable cause to suspect a child is at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect or other types of harm.

Any member of staff who is spoken to by a child concerning Child Protection issues should, in the first instance, listen carefully to what the child has to say, and if possible make a note of the conversation. **Absolute confidentiality should not be promised.**

Denbigh Youth Policy complies with inter agency statutory guidance –associated policies and procedures which promote children's safety and welfare, with regards to: health and safety, anti-bullying, protection of children online, and photography.

All safeguarding training to follow this guidance: <https://socialcare.wales/resources-guidance/safeguarding-list/national-safeguarding-training-learning-and-development-standards> for staff would be Group B and Safeguarding Officer Group C, - and everyone can use this module as a starting point or as a refresher: <https://socialcare.wales/learning-modules/group-a-safeguarding> or in Welsh: <https://gofalcymdeithasol.cymru/modiwlau-dysgu/grwp-a-diogelu>

Policy verified by External Safeguarding Officer – Suzanne Mollinson – Safeguarding Officer, WCVA Safeguarding Services – 01745 357574 – E Mail - smollinson@wcva.cymru

Dated: 14/09/2023