

Devon Rural Skills Trust: Adult Safeguarding Guidance (Aug 2019)

The welfare and safety of adults at risk is of paramount concern and the Devon Rural Skills Trust (DRST) expects all members and course participants to share this commitment. This guidance aims to help DRST members who are running, or helping to run, DRST-sanctioned events know what they need to do to safeguard Adults at Risk.

The chairman is DRST's safeguarding officer and any allegations and/or concerns should be taken seriously and reported immediately to the chairman. On courses or training days the DRST instructor is the person with 'in the field' safeguarding responsibility and any concerns should be reported to him/her in the first instance.

Remember... it is the responsibility of social care professionals to determine whether or not abuse has taken place but is everybody's responsibility to report it.

Introduction

DRST recognises that all adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice and to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.

The Care Act 2014 defines Safeguarding Adults as: Safeguarding duties apply to an adult who (1) has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and (2) is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect, and (3) as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect himself or herself from either the risk, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

An Adult at Risk is defined as a person aged 18 or older who is in need of care and support regardless of whether they are receiving it, and because of those needs is unable to protect himself/herself against physical, sexual or psychological abuse or neglect. Remember... a vulnerable adult may not define himself/herself as at risk.

Types of Abuse and/or Neglect

- Discriminatory
- Psychological
- Financial/material
- Organisational
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Physical
- Sexual

- Domestic violence
- Modern slavery
- Self-neglect

Not included but relevant: cyber-bullying, forced marriage, mate crime, radicalisation

There are several ways that you may become aware of abuse and/or neglect: you may see it happening, you may recognise the signs, you may be informed by a third party, or a person may make a disclosure.

Dealing with Disclosures

Do:

- Stay calm and try not to show shock or disbelief
- Listen carefully to what they are saying
- Be sympathetic
- Be aware of the possibility that medical evidence might be needed
- Tell the person that you are treating the information seriously
- ask permission to pass their information on to the appropriate person
- Report to the course instructor and/or chairman.
- Write down what was said by the person disclosing as soon as possible.

Do not:

- Press the person for more details
- Stop someone who is freely recalling significant events
- Jump to conclusions and/or be judgemental
- Do not make promises you cannot keep or promise to keep secrets – you cannot keep this kind of information confidential
- Contact the alleged abuser
- Pass on the information to anyone other than those with a legitimate 'need to know'

Under no circumstances should any individual attempt to deal with the problem alone. The responsibility of the person who first suspects or is told of abuse or neglect is to report it to the course instructor and/or the chairman. You must ensure that your concern is taken seriously.

A note on consent: if concerns arise consent must be obtained from the individual concerned before a referral is made. However, if there is genuine concern there is risk of harm, the information may be passed to social services or the police even if consent is not obtained. Information about an individual should not be given to family or carers without consent of the individual.

Further information is available at:

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/devonsafeguardingadultsboard/>



Advice from Devon Safeguarding Adults Board:

If you see, hear or suspect that an adult may be at risk of abuse or neglect, you must tell someone about it. If they are in immediate danger contact the police on 999.

Otherwise contact **Care Direct** on 0345 155 10007 or email customerservicecentrecaredirectteam-mailbox@devon.gov.uk

Care Direct is open to take calls between 8.00am and 8.00pm Monday to Friday and from 9.00am to 1.00pm on Saturdays. Outside these hours and on Sundays and Bank Holidays, in emergency only, please contact the Emergency Duty Service on 0845 6000 388 (low-call rate).

Devon Safeguarding Adults Referral form:

Please use the following link to download the referral form:

<https://new.devon.gov.uk/devonsafeguardingadultsboard/reporting-concerns>