

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AT RISK POLICY

DEFINITIONS

ADULT AT RISK OF HARM:

- A person aged 18 or over who has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and:
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, and:
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

An individual's level of vulnerability to harm may vary over time depending on the circumstances they are in and their needs at that time.

Not all adults with care and support needs will be at risk of harm. This will depend on the individual, their current situation and the circumstances they are in.

ABUSE: Abuse is defined as a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons. It includes acts of commission (such as an assault) and acts of omission (situations where the environment fails to prevent harm). Abuse may be single act or omission or series of acts or omissions.

CAPACITY: Capacity refers to an individual adult's ability to take a specific decision or take a particular action at a particular time even if they are able or not able to make other decisions at other times. The starting point should be that the person has capacity to make a decision unless it can be established that they cannot.

CARE AND SUPPORT NEEDS: Care and support needs can arise from or are related to a physical or mental impairment or illness and are not caused by other circumstantial factors. This includes if the adult has a condition as a result of physical, mental, sensory, learning or cognitive disabilities or illnesses, substance abuse or brain injury. This list is not exhaustive.

POOR PRACTICE: Poor practice includes any behaviour that contravenes existing codes of conduct, infringes an individual's rights and/or reflects a failure to fulfil the expected standards of care. Failure to challenge poor practice can lead to an environment where abuse is more likely to occur or continue.

ADULT SAFEGUARDING: Adult safeguarding is working with adults with care and support needs to keep them safe from abuse or neglect.

CONSENT: Consent is not given for ever and is only relevant at the point of being expressed and may be for a specific reason only.

FOOTBALL AUTHORITIES: The 'Football Authorities' refers to The FA, the Premier League, the English Football League ("EFL"), The Professional Footballers' Association and the League Managers Association.

POLICY

The Association adopts the statement below:

The Football Authorities are committed to ensuring football is inclusive and provides a safe and positive experience for every adult participant involved in the game, regardless of age, gender, gender reassignment, disability, culture, language, race, faith, belief or sexual orientation.

The Football Authorities recognise some people may need additional safeguards and/or protection. These adults are referred to as 'Adults at risk'. The Football Authorities recognise their responsibility to safeguard and protect adults at risk by responding appropriately to any allegations or suspicions of abuse. Everyone who works with adults at risk has a responsibility to commit to this.

If abuse is suspected, or reported, The Authorities and The Association will work in partnership with the adult at risk wherever possible, depending on their capacity and the risk to them and others. The Association will also work in partnership with the Police, health and/or adult services, the Disclosure and Barring Service, Safeguarding Adults Boards and local authorities so these organisations can carry out their statutory duties to safeguard and protect adults at risk.

When responding to abuse or allegations of abuse and considering the sharing of information, The Authorities and The Association will put the needs of the adult first and take into account the six principles of safeguarding adults detailed in the Care Act 2014: empowerment; protection; prevention; proportionality; partnership; and accountability. These principles will underpin all work with adults at risk.