



The Crossings Waterside Project

Adult Safeguarding Policy

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Adult Safeguarding Policy

1. **Aims:** This policy has been drawn up in recognition that there is an ever-present risk of abuse happening to vulnerable adults. It is our duty to prevent abuse and to take effective action when abuse is suspected or disclosed. Abuse is unacceptable in all circumstances. This policy sets out the steps that The Crossings Waterside Project ("The Crossings") has taken to safeguard Guests who are at risk of abuse and neglect and the responsibility of all Volunteers in cases of suspected abuse or neglect.
2. **Good Practice Statement:** The best defence against abuse is the strength of values incorporated into "The Crossings" culture. "The Crossings" Trustees believe that all Guests are entitled to be treated with dignity, courtesy and respect regardless of their age, race, gender, gender orientation or ability. Safety is embedded within good sound practice and the growing ability of Guests to make their views known and be listened to protect them.
3. **Vulnerable Adult:** For the purposes of this policy a vulnerable adult is defined as:
 - A person of 18 years and over who is, or may be, eligible for community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; **and**
 - Who is or may be unable to take care of him/herself, or unable to protect him/herself against significant harm or exploitation.
4. **Abuse:** Abuse is a violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons. It is a single or repeated act or omission, occurring within a personal or other close relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm to a vulnerable adult. Abuse can take many forms;
 - **Physical:** This could be someone hitting, kicking, hair pulling, burning, pinching or shaking you, or being given too much or too little medication. This could be an assault.
 - **Financial:** This could be someone stealing from you, or forcing you to pay for other people's things, or when you don't have a say in how your money is being spent. This could also be theft or fraud.
 - **Emotional:** This could be someone calling you names, bullying you, or treating you like a child, being ignored, or blamed for things that you did not do, being shouted at, or threatened.
 - **Sexual:** This could be being touched, or forced to touch someone else, or when you don't want to made to have sex with someone. This could also be rape, sexual assault or the use of sexual language.

- **Neglect:** This could be if you are hungry, cold, do not have clean clothes to wear, or are denied access to things you need.
- **Discrimination:** When you are treated unfairly because of your age, race, gender, gender orientation, or ability.

5. Prevention and Risk Management:

Prevention: "The Crossings" employs various strategies to control the risk of abuse and target the causes and opportunities for abuse and neglect. These include:

- Communication with "The Crossings" staff and Volunteers about the nature of abuse and "The Crossings" Safeguarding Policy.
- Embedding the principles of safeguarding into volunteer practice.
- Risk assessment for every Guest by way of the interaction process when they access the Project.

Prevention strategies are specifically targeted at staff and Volunteers working with adults at risk. The Targeted Strategies include:

- Volunteer Recruitment: "The Crossings" will carry out Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks on all Trustees and staff to ensure that any convictions indicated do not present a risk to the safety of the Guests. Other Volunteers are subject to a reference prior to allocation to the active list
- Policies and Procedures Volunteers are expected to follow.
- "The Crossings" reinforces expectations of Volunteers through rules for conduct and practice and particularly in respect of confidentiality and procedures for the prevention of violence.
- Volunteer support and information: All Volunteers will receive support from the Project Leader and the Trustees.
- Training will be offered and information on Policy and procedures will be available to all.
- Alerting: Any Volunteer may be alerted to the possibility of abuse. Alerting could mean that an act of abuse is witnessed; a person is saying that abuse has occurred, or suspicions are raised.
- All Volunteers are responsible for reporting concerns, disclosures or possible indications of abuse to the Project leader.
- Information about abuse must never be withdrawn intentionally as failure to disclose may have an influence on the future safety of an individual.
- Disclosure and concerns should not be treated as confidential.

Remember as a Volunteer with "The Crossings" you must never promise to keep secrets for a guest. You must never be alone with a Guest, and anything you hear or see which causes you concern should in the first instance be reported to the Project leader, who will consider referring the information on to the most appropriate agency.