



Safeguarding Policy

Reviewed July 2021

Review 2024

Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Considerations for Street Angels

Definition:

A Child is... “any person under the age of 18 years” as defined by the Children Act 2004

A Vulnerable Adult is... “a person aged 18 years or over who is, or may be, in need of community care services or is resident in a continuing care facility by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness or who is, or may be, unable to take care of him or herself or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation”

BORO ANGELS have a responsibility to protect and safeguard the welfare of children and vulnerable adults they come into contact with. The need for guidelines and procedures is important to ensure that this is done with understanding and clarity.

The person with lead responsibility for safeguarding within the organisation is:

THE SAFEGUARDING OFFICER

All volunteers are made aware of this policy and the process for reporting concerns.

- On induction and at training events the policy will be discussed with volunteers to make them aware of their responsibilities whilst on patrol.
- Whilst out on patrol if a volunteer sees a child or an adult who is, or they may think may be vulnerable they will bring their concerns to the notice of the Team Leader.
- The Team Leader must inform CCTV giving description and approximate ages. This gives CCTV a chance to ‘capture’ image and assist in identifying the minors or vulnerable adult.

Contact Details:

Alma Dennison – Treasurer/Safeguarding Officer
Urgent Call 07981905791 otherwise email: alma.dennison@hotmail.co.uk

Nigel Hughes - Vice Chair
Email:

Contents

1. Definitions of harm
 - Abuse
 - Physical abuse
 - Emotional abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Neglect
2. Recognition of harm
3. Acting on concerns
4. Seeking Medical Attention
5. Allegations against volunteers
6. Recruitment and selection

1. Definitions of harm

Abuse

A form of maltreatment of a person. Somebody may abuse or neglect a someone by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Abuse may occur in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

Physical abuse

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to someone. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or intentionally induces, illness in a child.

Emotional abuse

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a person such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on that person's emotional development. It may involve conveying to them that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the person opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a person's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing that person participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing them to frequently feel frightened or in danger.

Sexual abuse

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children. They may also be trafficked from elsewhere within the UK and also from other countries.

Neglect

The persistent failure to meet a person's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of that person's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to: provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment); protect a vulnerable person from physical and emotional harm or danger; ensure adequate supervision or ensure access to the appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to a person's basic emotional needs.

This is not an exhaustive list, and it must be recognised that it is not the role of volunteers to make an assessment of whether children or vulnerable adults have suffered harm. Boro Angels do have a duty to report any concerns about harm to the relevant authorities.

2. Recognition of harm

The harm or possible harm of a child or vulnerable adult may come to your attention in a number of possible ways;

- Information given by the victim his/her friend, family or associate.
- An injury which arouses suspicion because;
 - It does not make sense when compared with the explanation given.
 - The explanations differ depending on who is giving them
 - The person appears anxious and evasive when asked about the injury.

3. Acting on concerns

- Children out without adult supervision/alone/with other minors late at night or in the early morning
 - Children who appear to have adult supervision but you are unsure of the relationship
- If a volunteer has concerns about any child's welfare or feels they are may suffer harm, then they should raise concerns with the Team Leader, who will contact police and/or CCTV. The patrol report should give detailed description of the encounter, if witnessed but no contact made this should be stated in the report giving description and approx ages.

4. Seeking Medical Attention

- If a patrol comes across child with an injury then an ambulance must be called.
- If adult has a physical injury then depending on the nature of the injury an ambulance should be called or they should be advised to seek medical attention.

The patrol report should give detailed description of the incident and the person(s) involved. Any safeguarding concerns should be shared with the Ambulance staff and the Police in order that they can appropriately assess and treat the person and share relevant information.

5. Allegations against volunteers

If any member volunteer has concerns about the behaviour or conduct of another individual working within the group or organisation including:

- Behaving in an inappropriate way towards a vulnerable adult or child.
- Behaved towards a vulnerable adult or child in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with children

The nature of the allegation or concern should be reported to the Team Leader, the Chair or an executive member of the Management Committee immediately.

6. Recruitment and selection

It is important when recruiting volunteers to adhere to the organisations recruitment policy. This will ensure potential staff and volunteers are screened for their suitability to work with children and vulnerable adults.

Boro Angels request volunteers to provide, if possible, a certificate from the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) and provide two referees contact details.

A person who is barred from working with children or vulnerable adults will be breaking the law if they work or volunteer or try to work or volunteer with those groups. If Boro Angels knowingly employs someone who is barred to work with those groups they will also be breaking the law. If there is an incident where a volunteer has to be dismissed because they have harmed a child or vulnerable adult, or would have been if they had not left, Boro Angels will notify the DBS.