**Loughton Voluntary Care (LVC)**

**Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy**

Policy Statement

It is our policy to comply fully with the safeguarding requirements of the Care Act 2014 as expressed in the statutory Care and Support Guidance, and any revisions that may be made to the guidance. This document sets out our approach to doing so.

Abuse is a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights; it can take many forms. All volunteers in Loughton Voluntary Care Association are committed to practice which promotes the welfare of

vulnerable adults and safeguards them from harm. LVC volunteers accept and recognise our responsibilities to develop awareness of the issues that cause vulnerable adults harm, and to establish and maintain a safe environment for them. We will not tolerate any form of abuse wherever it occurs or whoever is responsible. We are committed to promoting an atmosphere of inclusion, transparency and openness and are open to feedback from the people who use our services, carers, advocates, our staff and our volunteers with a view to how we may continuously improve our services/activities.

Aims

* Ensuring that the wellbeing of vulnerable adults is paramount at all times;
* Maximising people’s choice, control and inclusions and protecting their human rights;
* Working in partnership with others in order to safeguard adults;
* Ensuring safe and effective working practices are in place; and
* Supporting volunteers within the organisation

Scope

This policy applies to all volunteers within the organisation and anyone who has a contractual relationship with the organisation.

Definition: Care Act 2014

The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

(a) has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),

(b) is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and

(c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Safeguarding means protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action.

Monitoring

This policy has been approved by the LVC Committee, and will be reviewed every three years, or following changes in relevant legislation.

Janet Thomas is the LVC lead on safeguarding, and will monitor and report to three-monthly committee meetings, or immediately if a serious concern is raised.

Types of Abuse: Care Act 2014

* Physical abuse – including hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, inappropriate restraint;
* Sexual abuse – including rape and sexual assault or sexual acts the adult has not/cannot consent to;
* Psychological or emotional abuse – including threats of harm or abandonment, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation;
* Financial or material abuse – including theft, fraud, exploitation, misuse or misappropriation of property or wills;
* Neglects and acts of omission – including withholding the necessities of life such as medication, food or warmth, ignoring medical or physical care needs;
* Discriminatory abuse – including discrimination on grounds of race, gender and gender identity, disability, sexual orientation, religion and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment;
* Organisational – including neglect and poor practice by an organisation;
* Domestic abuse – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse between adults who are or have been intimate partners or family members;
* Modern slavery – includes very little or no pay, excessively long and/or unusual working hours, poor physical health, not in control of own money, no financial records or ID documents; and
* Self-neglect – wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one’s personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

Responsibilities

LVC responsibilities – to take action to identify and prevent abuse from happening; respond appropriately when abuse has been or is suspected; provide support, management, advice, information and resources to volunteers in responding to safeguarding issues; understand how diversity, beliefs and values of people who use services may influence the identification, prevention and response to safeguarding concerns; ensure volunteers are aware of the Safeguarding Policy; ensure all volunteers who come in contact with adults have appropriate safer recruitment checks in line with the requirements of the Disclosure and Barring Service, such as obtaining references; and ensure volunteers are supported if they make a disclosure under the Public Interest Disclosure Act; and ensure the information (in accessible formats) is available for people that use services setting out what to do if they have a concern.

Safeguarding Lead responsibilities – to monitor safeguarding and report to three-monthly committee meetings; ensure reporting of safeguarding concerns to the relevant statutory agency; and participate in safeguarding adults training and maintain current working knowledge.

All volunteers’ responsibilities – to become familiar with the Safeguarding Policy; discuss any concerns about the welfare of an adult with the Safeguarding Lead or Duty Officer; remain alert to the possibility of abuse, neglect and self-neglect; and recognise the impact that diversity, beliefs and values of people who use services can have.

Author: Carey Adams

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Approved by: Full Committee on 17th January 2019

Effective from: 17th January 2019

For attention of Members of the Senior Management Committee and volunteers;

Review date: 17th January 2022

Nominated Manager: (Name and Contact details)