

Walford Parish Council

Safeguarding policy

Policy statement

Walford Parish Council is committed to improving the quality and enjoyment of life in the Parish, for residents and visitors, whilst enhancing the environment and the local economy. In recognition of this objective, The Council and Walford Community Support Scheme commits itself to the safeguarding, inclusion and empowerment of all, especially those who are vulnerable ensuring their well-being in the community.

The Council recognises that everyone has different levels of vulnerability and that each of us may be regarded as vulnerable at any point in our lives.

As a society, we have become aware of the way that some vulnerable people can be exploited and abused by others. It is important to know what to do if you suspect a problem.

Commitment

Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone including statutory, independent and voluntary agencies as well as every citizen. We will work together to prevent and protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and promote wellbeing.

Equality & Diversity

Each agency and organisation is committed to supporting the right of adults at risk to be safeguarded from abuse and ensuring that all staff and volunteers work together in accordance with this Policy and act promptly in investigating allegations or suspicions of abuse. It is recognised that adults at risk from specific key groups may experience discrimination and less favourable treatment on the grounds of their age; disability; race; colour; ethnic or national origin; financial or economic status; gender or marital status; HIV status; homelessness or lack of a fixed address; political view or trade union activity; religion or belief; sexuality; or unrelated criminal convictions. The Council will take positive steps to stop any unfair/unlawful discrimination and carry out positive action where lawful.

Action

If the Council knows or suspects that an adult at risk is being abused, it will do something about it and ensure the work is properly recorded. The Council will share information in a timely way.

What is abuse?

Abuse exists where someone uses their relationship to exploit someone for their own ends, for example:

- Physical abuse
- Financial abuse – extorting money or property
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Discrimination
- Emotional or verbal abuse

What could happen within the Walford Community Scheme?

A volunteer of the service user could become aware of some form of possible abuse. There are many possibilities, but some examples are:

- People overcharging for home maintenance, shopping etc
- People ignoring health or care needs of the service user
- People making false claims against or ridiculing vulnerable people
- People trying to make relationships which may be inappropriate

What should I do if I am suspicious?

- Do inform the Service Coordinator as soon as you can
- Refer to the Do's and Don'ts guidelines.

In most circumstances the confidentiality of the informer can be respected. However, where there is a criminal matter and the police or another agency is involved this may not be possible.

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Document control

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