

# SAFEGUARDING VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY

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## Policy Statement

Yuvan Foundation delivers a range of community-based activities and events. We, therefore, will have service users and participants that we come in to contact with who are from disadvantaged, BAME backgrounds. This policy lays out our ambition to ensure that every adult that uses our services is safe from all types of abuse and that we have a robust mechanism to deal with any observations, allegations or referrals that have to be made.

Yuvan Foundation will not tolerate the abuse of adults in any of its forms and is committed to safeguarding adults with care and support needs from harm.

This policy outlines the steps Yuvan Foundation will make to safeguard an adult with care and support needs if they are deemed to be at risk or at risk. This policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of Yuvan Foundation in working together with other professionals and agencies in promoting the adult's welfare and safeguarding them from abuse and neglect.

Yuvan Foundation will ensure that decisions made will allow adults to make their own choices and include them in any decision making. Yuvan Foundation will also ensure that safe and effective working practices are in place.

This policy is intended to support staff and volunteers working within Yuvan Foundation to understand their role and responsibilities in safeguarding adults. All staff and volunteers are expected to follow this policy.

The key objectives of this policy are for all employees and volunteers of Yuvan Foundation to:

- have an overview of adult safeguarding
- be clear about their responsibility to safeguard adults
- ensure the necessary actions are taken where an adult with care and support needs is deemed to be at risk

This policy is based on:

- The Care Act 2014 and the Care and Support statutory guidance
- London Safeguarding Adults policy and procedures
- Islington Safeguarding Adults Board's local procedures and appendices
- Under the Human Rights Act 1998, everyone has the right to live free from abuse and neglect. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/human-rights/human-rights-act>

Copies of this policy should be available within Yuvan Foundation's office. Yuvan Foundation will not tolerate the abuse of adults in the organization, and staff and volunteers should be made aware of how this policy can be accessed.

## **What is Safeguarding adults?**

*'Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or 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. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.'*

*Care and Support Statutory Guidance, Department of Health, updated February 2017*

All adults should be able to live free from fear and harm. But some may find it hard to get the help and support they need to stop abuse.

An adult may be unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation due to many reasons, including their mental or physical incapacity, sensory loss or physical or learning disabilities. This could be an adult who is usually able to protect themselves from harm but maybe unable to do so because of an accident, disability, frailty, addiction or illness.

Yuvanis Foundation adheres to following the six key principles that underpin safeguarding work (See Care Act guidance)

- Empowerment
- Prevention
- Proportionality
- Protection
- Partnership
- Accountability

Yuvanis Foundation will not tolerate the abuse of adults in staff and volunteers should ensure that their work reflects the principles above and ensure the adult with care and support needs is involved in their decisions and informed consent is obtained. Yuvanis Foundation should ensure that the safeguarding action agreed is the least intrusive response to the risk. Partners from the community should be involved in any safeguarding work in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse. Yuvanis Foundation should be transparent and accountable in delivering safeguarding actions.

## **What is Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)?**

MSP means a case should be person-led and outcome-focused. The individual should be involved in identifying how best to respond to their safeguarding situation by giving them more choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety.

Yuvanis Foundation will not tolerate the abuse of adults. Yuvanis Foundation will ensure that adults are involved in their safeguarding arrangements and each individual is dealt with on a case-by-case basis. As adults may have different preferences, histories and life styles, the same process may not work for all.

## **Who do adult safeguarding duties apply to?**

The Care Act 2014 sets out that adult safeguarding duties apply to *any* adult who:

- has care and support needs, and
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse and neglect, and

- is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect, because of those needs.

### **Who do I go to if I am concerned?**

The named responsible person for safeguarding duties for Yuvanis Foundation is **Mr M J Ahmad**.

All staff and volunteers should contact **M J Ahmad** for any concerns/queries they have in regards to safeguarding adults. A log of the concern must be kept.

**M J Ahmad** will be responsible to make decisions about notifying adult social services if required and consider alternative actions, where necessary.

**M J Ahmad** will also ensure that the safeguarding adults policies and procedures are in place and up to date. They will ensure a safe environment is promoted for staff and volunteers and adults accessing the service. **M J Ahmad** will ensure they are up to date with their safeguarding adults training.

### **What should I do if I am concerned?**

Staff and volunteers at Yuvanis Foundation who have any adult safeguarding concerns should:

## 1. Respond

- Take emergency action if someone is at immediate risk of harm/in need of urgent medical attention. Dial 999 for emergency services
- Get brief details about what has happened and what the adult would like done about it, but do not probe or conduct a mini-investigation
- Seek consent from the adult to take action and to report the concern. Consider whether the adult may lack capacity to make decisions about their own and other people's safety and wellbeing. If you decide to act against their wishes or without their consent, you must record your decision and the reasons for this.

## 2. Report

Report to the Designated adult safeguarding lead;

M J Ahmad

Mobile: 07931167537

## 3. Record

- You are required to write, who, what, why, when, how, kindly take any witness statements and their contact numbers.
  - As far as possible, records should be written contemporaneously, dated and signed.
4. Keep records about safeguarding concerns confidential and in a location where the alleged abuser will not have access to the record. Access should not be given to any unauthorised personal for accessing confidential information including the sharing of passwords.

## 5. Refer

In making a decision whether to refer or not, the designated safeguarding lead should take into account:

- (1) the adult's wishes and preferred outcome
- (2) whether the adult has mental capacity to make an informed decision about their own and others' safety
- (3) the safety or wellbeing of children or other adults with care and support needs
- (4) whether there is a person in a position of trust involved
- (5) whether a crime has been committed

This should inform the decision whether to notify the concern to the following people:

- the police if a crime has been committed and/or
- Islington's Access & Advice Team (part of adult social services) for possible safeguarding enquiry
- relevant regulatory bodies such as Care Quality Commission, Ofsted, Charities commission
- service commissioning teams
- family/relatives as appropriate (seek advice from adult social services)

The designated safeguarding lead should keep a record of the reasons for referring the concern or reasons for not referring.

Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple and may affect one person or more. Staff and volunteers should look beyond single incidents to identify patterns of harm. Accurate recording of information will also assist in recognising any patterns.

As soon as Adult Social Services becomes involved, a 4-stage safeguarding adults process is followed. For more information about this 4-stage safeguarding adults process, refer to the local Safeguarding Adults Procedures.

### **What are your roles and responsibilities?**

All staff, management, trustees and volunteers at Yuvanis Foundation are expected to report any concerns to the named person for safeguarding. If the allegation is against one of Yuvanis Foundation's members, volunteers, trustees or directors, seek advice from Yuvanis Foundation's safeguarding lead **M J Ahmad**. If the allegation is against the safeguarding lead please contact; our Chairperson – **Zahir Ahmad**.

The designated safeguarding adults lead should be responsible for providing acknowledgement of the referral and brief feedback to the person raising the original concern. Feedback should be given in a way that will not make the situation worse or breach the Data Protection Act. If the police are involved, they should be consulted prior to giving feedback to the referrer to ensure any criminal investigation is not affected.

The local authority will decide on who will lead on a safeguarding enquiry should it progress to that stage. The named organisation should not conduct its own safeguarding enquiry unless instructed to do so by the local authority.

Staff and volunteers should ensure that the adult with care and support needs is involved at all stages of their safeguarding enquiry ensuring a person-centred approach is adopted.

### **Complaints procedure**

Yuvanis Foundation promotes transparency and honesty when things go wrong. All staff and volunteers should apologise and be honest with service users and other relevant people when things go wrong.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 is to be used when decisions on behalf of those adults with care and support needs who are unable to make some decisions for themselves. Refer to the Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-capacity-act-code-of-practice>. You will need to involve an advocate if the person lacks capacity to make decisions about the safeguarding concern.

### **Why is it important to take action?**

It may be difficult for adults with care and support needs to protect themselves and to report abuse. They rely on you to help them.

### **Confidentiality and information sharing**

Yuvanis Foundation expects all staff, volunteers, trustees to maintain confidentiality at all times. In line with Data Protection law, Yuvanis Foundation does not share information if not required.

It should however be noted that information should be shared with authorities if an adult is deemed to be at risk of immediate harm. Sharing the right information, at the right time, with the right people can make all the difference to preventing harm. For further guidance on information sharing

and safeguarding see: <https://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/safeguarding-adults/sharing-information/keymessages.asp>

### **Recruitment and selection**

Yuvanis Foundation is committed to safe employment. Safe recruitment practices, such as Disclosure and Barring checks reduce the risk of exposing adults with care and support needs to people unsuitable to work with them. Refer to Yuvanis Foundation's Safer Recruitment Policy.

### **Training, awareness raising and supervision?**

Yuvanis Foundation ensures that all staff and volunteers receive basic awareness training on safeguarding adults as they may come across adults with care and support needs who may be at risk of abuse. Those adults may report things of concern to staff or volunteers who should be equipped with the basic knowledge around safeguarding adults and be confident to identify that abuse is taking place and action is required. All staff and volunteers should be clear about the core values of Yuvanis Foundation and commitment to safeguarding adults.

It is also useful to discuss training with staff who have attended training sessions to ensure they are embedding this in practice.

Similarly, staff and volunteers may encounter concerns about the safety and wellbeing of children. For more information about children's safeguarding, refer to Yuvanis Foundation's Children's safeguarding policy.

### **Prevent**

Radicalisation and extremism of adults with care and support needs is a form of emotional/psychological exploitation. Radicalisation can take place through direct personal contact, or indirectly through social media.

If staff are concerned that an adult with care and support needs is at risk of being radicalised and drawn into terrorism, they should treat it in the same way as any other safeguarding concern.

For more information about Prevent see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

## Useful links

Care act:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

London Safeguarding adults policy and procedures:

<http://londonadass.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/LONDON-MULTI-AGENCY-ADULT-SAFEGUARDING-POLICY-AND-PROCEDURES.pdf>

Safer recruitment:

<http://www.islingtonscb.org.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/Safer%20recruitment%20-%20safeguarding%20children%20and%20adults%205%20August%2013.pdf>

Carer and support statutory guidance:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/506202/23902777\\_Care\\_Act\\_Book.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/506202/23902777_Care_Act_Book.pdf)

Prevent:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

Information sharing:

<https://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/safeguarding-adults/sharing-information/keymessages.asp>

## **Appendix 1**

### **What are the types of safeguarding adults abuse?**

The Care and Support statutory guidance sets out the 10 main types of abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological
- Financial abuse
- Discriminatory
- Organisational
- Domestic violence
- Modern Slavery
- Self-neglect

However, you should keep an open mind about what constitutes abuse or neglect as it can take many forms and the circumstances of the individual case should always be considered.

For more information, read section 14.17 of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance.

### **What are the possible signs of abuse?**

Abuse and neglect can be difficult to spot. You should be alert to the following possible signs of abuse and neglect:

- Depression, self-harm or suicide attempts
- Difficulty making friends
- Fear or anxiety
- The person looks dirty or is not dressed properly,
- The person never seems to have money,
- The person has an injury that is difficult to explain (such as bruises, finger marks, 'non-accidental' injury, neck, shoulders, chest and arms),
- The person has signs of a pressure ulcer,
- The person is experiencing insomnia
- The person seems frightened, or frightened of physical contact.
- Inappropriate sexual awareness or sexually explicit behaviour
- The person is withdrawn, changes in behaviour



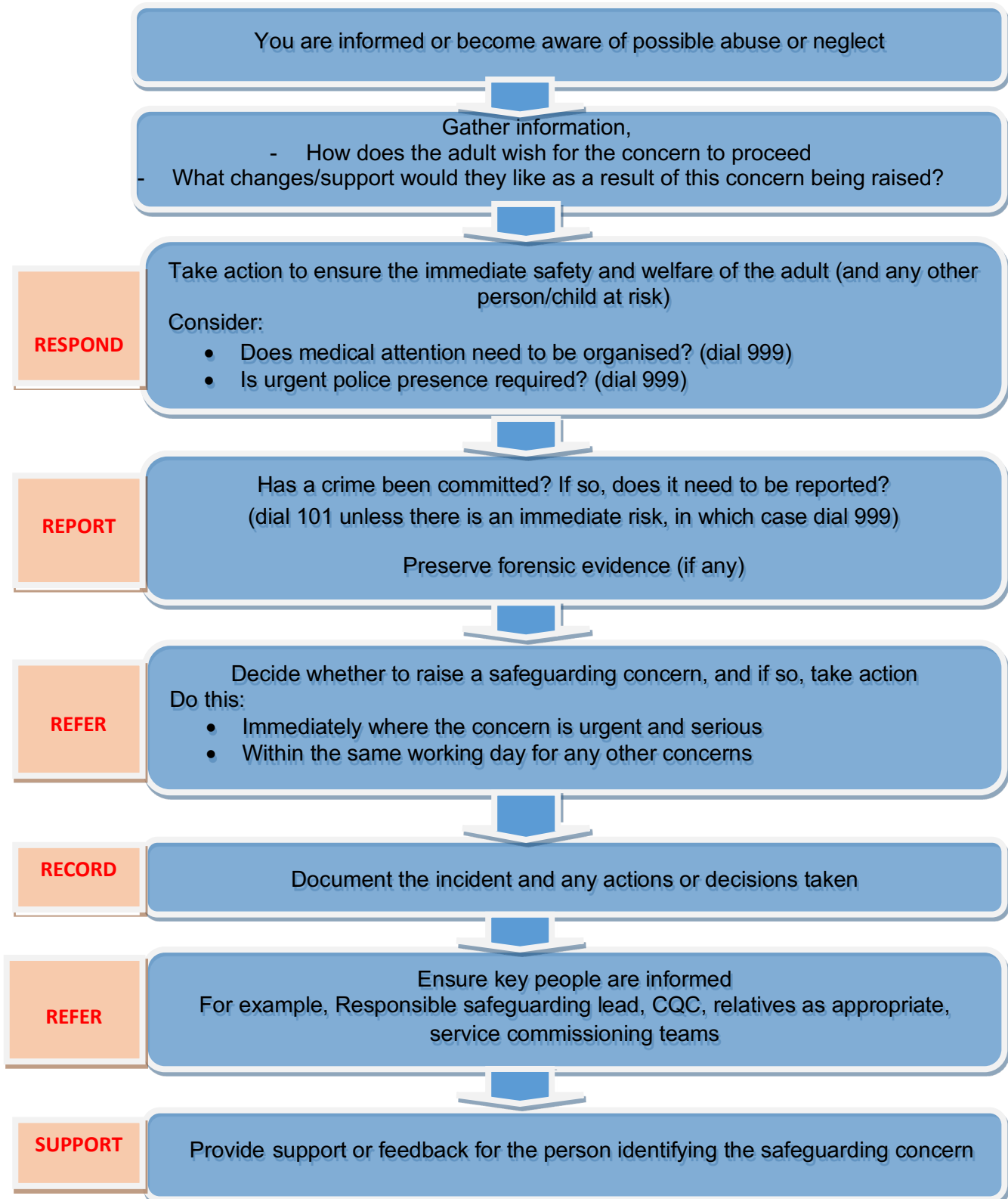
You should ask the person if you are unsure about their well-being as there may be other explanations to the above presentation.

### **Who abuses and neglects adults?**

Abuse can happen anywhere, even in somebody's own home. Most often abuse takes place by others who are in a position of trust and power. It can take place whether an adult lives alone or with others. Anyone can carry out abuse or neglect, including:

- partners;
- other family members;
- neighbours;
- friends;
- acquaintances;
- local residents;
- people who deliberately exploit adults they perceive as vulnerable to abuse;
- paid staff or professionals; and
- volunteers and strangers

## Raising a safeguarding concern



With thanks and acknowledgements to West and North Yorkshire and York regional Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures from which this flowchart has been adopted.  
<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/Documents/health-care-advice/adult-services/safeguarding/safeguarding-adults-from-abuse/summary-guide-policy-procedures.pdf>

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**Date of implementation:** 27 March 2022

**Date of last review:** February 2024

**Appendix A**

| <b>Role</b>                                    | <b>Contact number</b> |
|--|-----------------------|
| Designated Safeguarding Lead – M Jakir Ahmad   | 07931 167537          |
| LADO – Collette Morris                         | 0161 770 8870         |
| Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) (9am-5pm) | 0161 770 7777         |
| Police uniformed                               | 101                   |
| Forced Marriage Unit                           | 020 7008 0151         |