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Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedure

Policy Statement

Individual U3A's are encouraged by the national office and the Derbyshire Adult Safeguarding Board to adopt a Safeguarding policy.

MAU3A recognises that any adult may become vulnerable at some stage in their life due to illness, age, bereavement, incapacity or other change in circumstances and that this might make them more open to abuse. The purpose of this policy is to identify what members need to know, what to do if abuse is suspected or disclosed and where to get help.

There are many types of abuse and these can be found in the Care Act 2014. As members of the public if we suspect that an adult who is vulnerable is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect and that they are unable to protect themselves then we will consider whether we can take action to protect them. As members of MAU3A, if the suspected abuse is linked to a U3A activity then we also need to inform a member of the local management committee who will, if appropriate, inform the national U3A office.

Fears of sharing information must not stand in the way of promoting and protecting the well-being of adults at risk of abuse and neglect. However, every effort should be made to respect the confidentiality of the potential victim of abuse.

Circumstances where members could be vulnerable.

With almost 700 members it is likely that there will be members who suffer from mental health problems or from forms of dementia. Where coordinators are aware of this they need to bear it in mind when organising activity. In some circumstances a member's spouse or carer has alerted a coordinator about deteriorating health and has either accompanied the member or given advice about their needs.

Care should always be taken in deciding whether a venue is suitable for members with physical or mental health problems. Also when deciding whether to offer a lift to a group meeting or activity.

A number of groups meet in members' homes. Normal levels of care should be taken about the visibility of valuables etc.

Procedure

1. Anyone who suspects that an adult who is vulnerable is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect and that they are unable to protect themselves should report it:

If it is an emergency, contact the police, tel: 999.

If the person is not in any danger now but there has been a crime, contact the Police, tel: 101.

To report a safeguarding concern or ask for advice about a safeguarding concern, contact "Call Derbyshire":

Tel: 01629 533190 between 8am and 8pm Monday to Friday and between 9.30am and 4pm on Saturdays. You can ring Call Derbyshire anonymously without revealing your name.

2. If the suspected abuse is linked to a MAU3A activity the member reporting the abuse should contact the MAU3A chair or business secretary – see website for contact details. An example could be where one member is seen or heard to be attempting to extort money from another member who is apparently vulnerable for whatever reason.
3. The management committee designated Safeguarding lead will be informed and will liaise with the member reporting the abuse to ascertain what is known.
4. The Safeguarding lead may contact the national office Advice and Volunteering manager for advice or support.
5. The Safeguarding lead will decide with the chair or other member of the management committee whether the details of the case will be reported to the national office e.g. if the alleged abuse is perpetrated during a MAU3A activity.
6. Details will be kept confidentially and will not be retained once the case has been closed.

Policy adopted: January 2019

To be reviewed: January 2022 (or in the event of changing legislation)