

## SAFEGUARDING POLICY

### 1: Statement Of Intent

Fibromyalgia & Chronic Pain Support Group (Great Yarmouth & Gorleston) C.I.C. (hereinafter referred to as "the Company") believes in protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. This policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of the Company in working together in promoting the adult's welfare and safeguarding them from abuse and neglect. The Company acknowledges that safeguarding is everybody's responsibility and is committed to prevent abuse and neglect through safeguarding the welfare of all adults involved.

### 2: Definitions

The Care Act 2014 defines an adult at risk of abuse where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there):

- 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.

### 3: Key Principles Of Adult Safeguarding

In the safeguarding of adults, the Company are guided by the six key principles set out in The Care Act 2014 and Making Safeguarding Personal. The Company aims to demonstrate and promote these six principles in our work:

- **Empowerment** – People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
- **Prevention** – It is better to take action before harm occurs.
- **Proportionality** – The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
- **Protection** – Support and representation for those in greatest need.
- **Partnership** – Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
- **Accountability** – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding

#### 4: Recognising The Signs Of Abuse

The Company's management team are well-placed to identify abuse. The adult may say or do things that let you know something is wrong. It may come in the form of a disclosure, complaint, or an expression of concern. Everyone within the organisation should understand what to do, and where to go to get help, support and advice.

#### 5: Types Of Abuse

The Care Act 2014 defines the following ten areas of abuse.

These are not exhaustive but are a guide to behaviour that may lead to a safeguarding enquiry.

This includes:

1. **Physical abuse** - Including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.
2. **Sexual abuse** - Including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography. Witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.
3. **Psychological or emotional abuse** - Including threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.
4. **Neglect or acts of omission** - Including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
5. **Financial or material abuse** - Including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
6. **Discriminatory abuse** - Including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment because you are, or are perceived to be different due to race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.
7. **Organisational or institutional abuse** - Including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to long-term ill treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes or practices within an organisation.

8. **Self-neglect** - This covers a wide range of behaviour, neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. There is a difference between what constitutes a safeguarding incident that requires a statutory response and an incident that is rooted in concern for someone's general wellbeing.
9. **Domestic violence/ Domestic abuse** - This could be any of the indicators of abuse relating to physical, psychological/emotional, sexual or financial but by a person with whom you have a close family or intimate relationship such as a partner, child, parent.
10. **Modern slavery** - Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and those who coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

## 6: Radicalisation

The Government through its PREVENT programme has highlighted how some adults may be vulnerable to exploitation and radicalisation and involvement in terrorism.

Signs and indicators of radicalisation may include:

- Being in contact with extremist recruiters.
- Articulating support for violent extremist causes or leaders.
- Accessing violent extremist websites, especially those with a social networking element.
- Possessing violent extremist literature
- Using extremist narratives to explain personal disadvantage.
- Justifying the use of violence to solve societal issues.
- Joining extremist organisations.
- Significant changes to appearance and/or behaviour.

## 7: Reporting Concerns

Anyone who becomes aware that an adult is or is at risk of being abused or radicalised must raise the matter immediately with the company's designated safeguarding team. The safeguarding team members are easily identifiable via their official identity badges that are worn to all events.

Early sharing of information is the key to providing an effective response where there are emerging concerns. To ensure effective safeguarding arrangements, no one should assume that someone else will do it.

The Company will:

- Inform the adult of the action we propose to take.
- Seek their agreement for any referral.
- Ensure that they are kept informed about what will happen next, so they can be reassured about what to expect.
- Endeavour to ensure that they are safe and supported before proceeding with any other action.
- Inform the adult if the Company are planning to seek advice from or report concerns to an external agency.

In most situations there will not be an immediate threat and the decision about protecting the person with safeguarding needs will be taken in consultation with themselves and through referral to Adult Social Care.

**If the adult requires immediate protection from harm, contact the emergency services on 999.**

## 8: Training and Awareness

The Company will ensure an appropriate level of safeguarding training is available to its management team, volunteers and any relevant persons linked to the organisation who requires it.

For all members who are working or volunteering with adults at risk, this requires them as a minimum to have awareness training that enables them to:

- Understand what safeguarding is and their role in Safeguarding Adults.
- Recognise an adult potential in need of safeguarding and take action.
- Understand how to report a safeguarding Alert.
- Understand dignity and respect when working with individuals.
- Have knowledge of the Safeguarding Adults Policy.

## **9: Confidentiality and Information Sharing**

The Company expects everyone to maintain confidentiality.

Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and Data Protection.

However, information should be shared with the Local Authority if an adult is deemed to be at risk of harm or they pose a risk of harm to another.

**You should contact the police on 999 if they are in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed.**

## **10: Recording and Record Keeping**

A written record must be kept about any concern regarding an adult with safeguarding needs. This must include details of the person involved, the nature of the concern and the actions taken, decisions made and why they were made.

All records must be signed and dated. All records must be securely and confidentially stored in line with General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

## **11: Whistleblowing**

The Company is committed to ensuring that members and volunteers who in good faith whistle-blow in the public interest, will be protected from reprisals and victimisation.

## 12: Important Contacts

### Company Lead for Safeguarding

Liz Haynes

### Company Safeguarding Officers

Dale Tatnell and Victoria Moyse

### Company's Dedicated Safeguarding E-Mail Address

gygfibrosafeguarding@gmail.com

### Norfolk County Council Safeguarding Adults Team

0344 800 8020

### Suffolk County Council Safeguarding Adults Team

0800 917 1109

### Police

Emergency – 999

Non-Emergency - 101

## 13: Review

This policy will be reviewed annually

Date:  14 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	Signature (Director) 	Signature (Director) 
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