

CAD-BRENT Safeguarding Policy: Protection of Vulnerable Adults

1.0 Introduction

CAD Brent recognises that all the people using its services, which may have been contracted or directly provided, have the same human value, rights and responsibilities as anyone else. They should therefore be shown the same dignity and respect as others in society. CAD Brent condemns all forms of abuse and neglect.

2.0 Definition of Abuse

- Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons (*D.O.H. 'No Secrets' Report*)
- Abuse is when a person or persons have caused harm, or may be likely to do so, to the physical, sexual, emotional, financial or material well being of a vulnerable person.
- Harm may be caused by direct acts or by failure to provide adequate care. It may be systematic and repeated or may consist of a single incident.

3.0 Definition of Vulnerability

The Law Commission (1995) defined a vulnerable adult as someone:

“Who is in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of himself or herself, or unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or serious exploitation.”

4.0 Forms of Abuse

Abuse, which is a misuse of power, can take many forms including the following:

- **Physical abuse** (including actual or threatened physical attacks, verbal assault or neglect.)
- **Sexual abuse** (including rape, other sexual assault, threatened touching or inappropriate sexual remarks.)
- **Emotional abuse** (including any actions or comments which fail to show dignity and respect for the individual.)
- **Financial abuse** (including misappropriation of the personal finances of people using our services, borrowing from people using our services etc.)
- **Neglect**, which is a failure to properly care for the physical and emotional needs of the person and to protect them from harm.
- **Institutional abuse** where the rituals and routines mean individuals have to sacrifice their lifestyle to conform with those of the institution
- **Discriminatory abuse** (including that based on a person's race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, disability, age, religion & social status)

Policy on the Protection of Vulnerable Adults

1. CAD-BRENT is fully committed to protecting the security, privacy and dignity of the vulnerable adults who are engaged with the services they support and recommend. The primary purpose of this policy is to ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that people using our services or engaged with services we support, do not suffer from abuse or neglect. Where incidents of abuse or neglect are reported or suspected, CAD Brent will seek to deal with such incidents as speedily as possible, providing positive help, support and assistance to the alleged victim, and taking action against alleged

perpetrators wherever possible.

2. Vulnerable adults engaged with any services supported by CAD-BRENT can be assured that:-

- Their welfare is paramount
- everyone has the right to protection from neglect or abuse, and this protection is especially important for those who, for whatever reason, become vulnerable
- all allegations or suspicions of neglect or abuse are taken seriously
- all such allegations or suspicions will receive a swift and appropriate response
- all CAD-BRENT trustees, staff and volunteers fulfil their responsibility to be alert to the possibility of abuse or neglect and to report concerns.

3. CAD-BRENT will ensure that those involved in services provided or supported by them will have staff and volunteers who have been:-

- selected carefully, checking for suitable attitudes and behaviour
- subject to appropriate checks of references and criminal records
- trained to understand the vulnerable adult protection policy and guidance
- provided with further training in protection of vulnerable adults appropriate to the service provided.
- supported to listen and understand their concerns
- advised that serious allegations of abuse or neglect will be reported to the appropriate authorities.

4. All involved in the provision of CAD-BRENT services whether directly or through contracts will:

- follow the policy set out in this document
- discuss any concerns with their designated project leader or a trustee at the earliest opportunity
- actively discourage discriminatory or abusive behaviour and take steps to deal with any such incidents
- ensure that their own personal behaviour, conduct and language are appropriate
- recognise the relationship of trust that they have with a vulnerable adult.

5. It is the responsibility of everyone involved with CAD-BRENT (trustees, staff member or volunteer) to conduct their work with a vulnerable adult in a way that minimises the opportunity for allegations of abuse, without compromising the service afforded to the individual.

6. Legislation

The principal legislation governing this policy are:

- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (SVGA) and as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012 (PoFA)
- The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations 2012 (SI 2012/2112) came into force on 10 September 2012,
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2012/2112/contents/made>
- [Health and Social Care Act 2008 \(Regulated Activities\) Regulations 2014](#)

And [The Health and Social Care Act 2008 \(Regulated Activities\) \(Amendment\) Regulations 2015](#)

- Mental Health Act 1983
- NHS and Community Care Act 1990
- Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998
- Rehabilitation of Offenders Act 1974
- The Police Act – CRB 1997