

Safeguarding Policy

1. Statement of commitment

The Walton Parish Nursing Safeguarding Policy rests within the framework of the Safeguarding policies of The Church of England, The Baptist Union and The Methodist Church and fully upholds the intentions and remits of these policies.

Walton Parish Nursing recognises that the welfare of vulnerable adults, children and young people is paramount and that we have a duty of care while they are in our charge. We will do everything that we can to provide a safe and caring environment when they attend our activities.

2. Safeguarding Officer

Within Walton Parish Nursing the member of the Management Team designated as Line Manager will normally act as Safeguarding Officer.

The Safeguarding Officer is responsible for:

- Helping to ensure that all who work with children, young people or vulnerable adults on behalf of Walton Parish Nursing are familiar with the adopted safeguarding procedures.
- Helping to ensure that all those who work with children, young people or vulnerable adults receive appropriate safeguarding training to group 1 or group 2 standard.

3. Code of Conduct

Within Walton Parish Nursing we will:

- Treat all children, young people or vulnerable adults with respect and dignity
- Ensure that their welfare and safety is paramount at all times
- Always act in a professional manner.
- Where appropriate, liaise openly with parents, guardians and carers.
- Avoid being alone with children and young people.
- Listen to, and act upon, any disclosures, allegations or concerns that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may have been harmed
- Ensure that all those working with children, young people or vulnerable adults receive the appropriate safeguarding training
- Non-Compliance to the Safeguarding Policy will automatically lead to the person being suspended from working with children, young people or vulnerable adults. Concerns about that person's behaviour regarding children, young people or vulnerable adults will be reported to all three churches involved in Walton Parish Nursing and/or the police without delay.

4. Vulnerable adults

A person who might be considered vulnerable has the right to:

- be treated with respect and dignity;

- have their privacy respected;
- be able to lead as independent a life as possible;
- be able to choose how to lead their life;
- have the protection of the law;
- have their rights upheld regardless of their ethnicity, gender, sexuality, impairment or disability, age, religion or cultural background;
- be heard.

In achieving this it is imperative that;

- there is a commitment to the safeguarding and protection of vulnerable people within Walton Parish Nursing.
- informed and appropriate care will be offered to any vulnerable person who has suffered harm or abuse.

There is not a single simple definition for a 'vulnerable adult.' The Department of Health states that a vulnerable adult is someone who is aged 18 years or over who 'is or may be in need of community care services by reasons of mental health or other disability, age or illness and is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation'.

Vulnerability is not an absolute, but factors which increase vulnerability are:

- a sensory or physical disability or impairment;
- a learning disability;
- a physical illness;
- mental ill health (including dementia), chronic or acute;
- an addiction to alcohol or drugs;
- the failing faculties in old age;
- a permanent or temporary reduction in physical, mental or emotional capacity brought about by life events, for example bereavement or previous abuse or trauma.

Section 59 of The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act (2006) provides a detailed definition and can be viewed at:

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/47/contents>

5. Concerns

When there is a disclosure of harm or there are concerns about the welfare of any children, young person or vulnerable adult, all members of Walton Parish Nursing are expected to share their concerns and allegations with the Safeguarding Officer. Any referrals should be made without delay to Suffolk County Council Customer First - 0808 800 4005 (Freephone from landlines and some mobiles). If a child, young person or vulnerable adult is at risk of immediate harm, the police should be immediately informed – 999.

6. Allegations of misconduct

All allegations against staff or volunteers should be referred to the Safeguarding Officer. If the Safeguarding Officer is implicated then a Trustee should be informed and the Chairman of Trustees informed without delay.

All allegations must be investigated by the Safeguarding Officer and one other member of the Management Team. If the Safeguarding officer is implicated, the investigation should be conducted by a Trustee and a member of the Management Team.

During the investigation of any allegation the person against whom the allegation was made will normally be automatically suspended from working under the auspices of Walton Parish Nursing.

The result of any allegation against staff or volunteers should, where possible, be conveyed to the person making the allegation even if the result is only to pass the allegation on to the police.