



## **YOUTH INITIATIVES ADULTS SAFEGUARDING STATEMENT**

### **Adults at Risk from Harm & Adults in Need of Protection**

Youth Initiatives NI (YI) primarily does outreach youthwork serving 11-18 year olds. Some young people aged 18-25 stay on in the organisation as volunteers and some programs occasionally include over 18's in need of a personal and social development programs. This policy benefits YI in clarifying how to care well for over 18's in our youthwork who do not come under our normal safeguarding policy.

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

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

This policy is intended to support staff & volunteers working within YI 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 YI 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

#### **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.'*

*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.

Youth Initiatives adheres to following the six key principles that underpin safeguarding work:

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

Youth Initiatives NI 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. YI 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. YI will be transparent and accountable in delivering safeguarding actions.

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

The named responsible person for safeguarding duties for Youth Initiatives NI is Siobhan Darragh who can be reached at 077 368 33 058 of [Siobhan@youthinitiatives.com](mailto:Siobhan@youthinitiatives.com)

All staff and volunteers should contact their YI Area Designated Officer for any concerns/queries they have in regards to safeguarding adults. A log of the concern must be kept.

The YI Designated Officer will be responsible to make decisions about notifying adult social services if required and consider alternative actions, where necessary.

The YI Designated Officer 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 and will ensure they are up to date with their safeguarding adults training.

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

Staff and volunteers at YI 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
  - Name the person to whom staff/volunteers need to report any potential safeguarding concerns. This will usually be the organisation's designated safeguarding lead (see above)
3. Record
  - *The YI Incident Form and other Reporting forms are available on the YI Staff Google drive. The YI designated officers are responsible to appropriately file Safeguarding records.*
  - As far as possible, records should be written contemporaneously, dated and signed.
  - Keep records about safeguarding concerns confidential and in a location where the alleged abuser will not have access to the record.

#### 4. 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
- Local Advice Team (part of adult social services) for possible safeguarding enquiry
- relevant regulatory bodies such as, Charities Commission NI
- 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.

#### **Complaints procedure**

Youth Initiatives NI 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.

If a staff or volunteer or any other member of the organisation is unhappy with a Youth Initiatives decision about the safeguarding concern, refer them to YI Staff Manual – Complaints Procedure. YI NI is committed to ensuring that staff and volunteers who in good faith whistle-blow in the public interest, will be protected from reprisals and victimisation. .

#### **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**

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

#### **Recruitment and selection**

Youth Initiatives 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.

#### **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
- Modern Slavery
- Domestic violence
- Self-neglect

## Raising a safeguarding concern

You are informed or become aware of possible abuse or neglect

Gather information,

- How does the adult wish for the concern to proceed
- What changes/support would they like as a result of this concern being raised?

### RESPOND

Take action to ensure the immediate safety and welfare of the adult (and any other person/child at risk)

Consider:

- Does medical attention need to be organised? (dial 999)
- Is urgent police presence required? (dial 999)

### REPORT

Has a crime been committed? If so, does it need to be reported?  
(dial 101 unless there is an immediate risk, in which case dial 999)

Preserve forensic evidence (if any)

### REFER

Decide whether to raise a safeguarding concern, and if so, take action  
Do this:

- Immediately where the concern is urgent and serious
- Within the same working day for any other concerns

### RECORD

Document the incident and any actions or decisions taken

### REFER

Ensure key people are informed  
For example, Responsible safeguarding lead, CQC, relatives as appropriate,  
service commissioning teams

### SUPPORT

Provide support or feedback for the person identifying the safeguarding concern