



## BEACON SAFEGUARDING POLICY

BEACON is concerned that all its clients, volunteers and staff should be protected from abuse. Our Volunteer, Health and Safety, and Lone Working policies set out safe procedures and ways of working.

BEACON staff and volunteers do not engage with children or vulnerable adults in regulated activities as defined by the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) \*\*.

In case abuse in the UK is disclosed to or suspected by BEACON workers or volunteers, the following advice is given (see Church Urban Fund 'Just Employment' documents):.

The adult protection procedure identifies three distinct roles in the protection of vulnerable people. This comes from the Government's paper on Vulnerable Adults Safe from Harm: The same principles apply to safeguarding children.

- Alerters
- Investigators
- Managers

### **Project worker and volunteers act as Alerters. Their duty is:**

- To report suspected acts of abuse
- To be alert to what abuse means and take seriously what they are told
- To think about what they see and ask if it is acceptable practice
- To work strictly in accordance with anti- racist, anti sexist, anti-ageist and anti disability practices
- To ensure the safety of the person you suspect is being mistreated as well as your own safety
- To contact the emergency services first, e.g. police, ambulance, if in a life-threatening situation.
- To be alert to hints, signals and non-verbal communication that could indicate abuse, which is being denied or deliberately hidden.

### **What to do if someone discloses abuse to you:**

- Stay calm and try not to show shock
- Listen carefully rather than question directly
- Be sympathetic
- Be aware of the possibility that medical evidence might be needed

### **Tell the person that:**

- They did right to tell you
- You are treating this information seriously
- It was not their fault

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**DO NOT:**

- **Press the person for more details**
- Stop someone who is freely recalling significant events as they may not tell you again
- Promise to keep secrets: explain that the information will be kept confidential, i.e. information will only be passed to those people who have “a need to know”
- Make promises that you cannot keep (such as “This will not happen to you again”)
- Contact the alleged abuser
- Be judgemental (e.g. “Why didn’t you run away?”)
- Pass on information to anyone who doesn’t have a “need to know” i.e. do not gossip

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***Project workers and volunteers should inform their line manager or project leader who will contact emergency services if they think someone may be in immediate danger or Social Care if the matter is less urgent.***

**Bradford Social Care**

Adult Protection Unit 01274 431077  
 Safeguarding Children 01274 437500  
 Emergency Duty Team 01274 431010

\*\* See government booklet : ‘Changes to disclosure and barring: What you need to know’ pages 10 – 11:-

‘There are six categories of people who will fall within the new definition of regulated activity (and so will anyone who provides day to day management or supervision of those people). A broad outline of these categories is set out below. For more information please see the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

(i) Providing health care

Any health care professional providing health care to an adult, or anyone who provides health care to an adult under the direction or supervision of a health care professional. Please see the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, for further details about what is meant by health care and health care professionals.

(ii) Providing personal care

Anyone who: • provides physical assistance with eating or drinking, going to the toilet, washing or bathing, dressing, oral care or care of the skin, hair or nails because of an adult’s age, illness or disability; • prompts and then supervises an adult who, because of their age, illness or disability, cannot make the decision to eat or drink, go to the toilet, wash or bathe, get dressed or care for their mouth, skin, hair or nails without that prompting or supervision; or • trains, instructs or offers advice or guidance which relates to eating or drinking, going to the toilet, washing or bathing, dressing, oral care or care of the skin, hair or nails to adults who need it because of their age, illness or disability.

(iii) Providing social work

The provision by a social care worker of social work which is required in connection with any health care or social services to an adult who is a client or potential client.

(iv) Assistance with cash, bills and/or shopping

The provision of assistance to an adult because of their age, illness or disability, if that includes managing the person's cash, paying their bills or shopping on their behalf.

(v) Assistance in the conduct of a person's own affairs

Anyone who provides various forms of assistance in the conduct of an adult's own affairs, for example by virtue of an enduring power of attorney. Please see the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, as amended by the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, for the further categories which are covered here.

(vi) Conveying

A person who transports an adult because of their age, illness or disability either to or from their place of residence and a place where they have received, or will be receiving, health care, personal care or social care; or between places where they have received or will be receiving health care, personal care or social care. This will not include family and friends or taxi drivers.'