



## *Malmesbury and District U3A*

# SAFEGUARDING ADULTS

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

All Trustees, Group Leaders and other members of Malmesbury and District U3A will do their best to ensure that no-one comes to any harm through their participation in U3A activities and will act prudently to ensure that everyone, including those living with specific difficulties (see our separate policy), feels supported and safe.

This policy offers advice to all members who may suspect, witness or be informed directly, that another is subject to harm, abuse or neglect. This may happen anywhere and not necessarily be related to M&D U3A activities. However, “safeguarding is everybody’s business”<sup>1</sup> and we have a duty of care towards our members to consider how to respond should such a circumstance arise in the light of the law and informed guidance.


## HUMAN RIGHTS AND SAFEGUARDING

The safeguarding elements in Human Rights Act 1998 include a right not to be subject to inhuman or degrading treatment (Article 3) but also the right to enjoy private, family and home life without unjustified interference (Article 8). Adult safeguarding is therefore a complex issue requiring a difficult balance between protecting people from harm and recognising the right of adults to make choices for themselves.

If you suspect abuse, “it is always best to discuss any concerns you have with the person concerned [the victim]... and obtain their agreement, where possible and safe to do so”<sup>2</sup>, before you discuss the situation with others.

## GENERAL ADVICE

We are **not** social workers **nor** police officers; we will nonetheless do our best to be alert to what is going on around us. If you are, at any time, made aware of a person possibly in serious difficulty, please do all you can to follow the procedure suggested below:

1. Listen carefully to what you are being told. 

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<sup>1</sup> AgeUK, Factsheet 78, Section 1.2

<sup>2</sup> AgeUK, Factsheet 78, Section 3

2. Say that you are taking the matter seriously and seek their consent to your pursuing the matter. [SEP]
3. Make notes as soon as possible on what you have heard.

## **KEY ADVICE**

In a clear-cut situation that is external to the U3A, and particularly if you feel it is dangerous one, you should report your concern promptly and directly to the Police or Social Care. You may well want to seek their advice without disclosing the identity of the person you are worried about.

In the event of a tentative concern, and especially if the incident(s) happen within the M&D U3A, speak initially and confidentially to the M&D U3A Chairman or Vice-Chairman.

However, given the complexities and possibility of subsequent legal action, it is **not** appropriate for M&D U3A to take the lead in any external enquiry. If appropriate, the Chairman (or Vice-Chairman) will therefore discuss the situation at the earliest possible opportunity with the Advice and Volunteering Manager in the Third Age Trust National Office.

*Revised Policy Adopted: May 2019*

*To be reviewed no later than: January 2022*

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## **MORE INFORMATION**

*Safeguarding older people from abuse and neglect* AgeUK Factsheet 78. 2016

*Care and support statutory guidance* The Care Act 2014, updated 28 June 2017

*Safeguarding Policy and Procedure* Third Age Trust, 2018