

Waterside Art Group

Adult Safeguarding Policy

Draft 1 February 2025, Peter York

Introduction

This policy is to make sure that Waterside Art Group has the right things in place to protect and safeguard adults.

Waterside Art Group believes in protecting adults' right to live safely, free from abuse and neglect. This policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of Waterside Art Group in working together in promoting the adults' welfare and safeguarding them from abuse and neglect. Volunteers should be made aware of how this policy can be accessed and put into practice.

This policy and related procedures are applicable to the Chair and Committee, as well as other volunteers and freelance providers, related to Waterside Art Group. Failure to comply with the policy and related procedures will be addressed without delay and may ultimately result in dismissal/exclusion from the organisation.

Care Act 2014 Definition of an Adult at Risk of Abuse:

Where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect an adult in its area (whether or not ordinary resident there).

- A. Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs)
- B. Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- C. As a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Key Principles of Adult Safeguarding:

In the safeguarding of adults, Waterside Art Group is guided by the six key principles set out in The Care Act 2014 and Making Safeguarding Personal. Waterside Art Group aims to demonstrate and promote these six principles in our work:

- **Empowerment**- People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent
- **Prevention**- It is better to take action before harm occurs
- **Proportionality**- The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
- **Protection**- Support and representation for those in greatest need
- **Partnership**- Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
- **Accountability**- Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding

Recognising the signs of abuse:

Freelance providers, volunteers, artists and the Committee are well placed to identify abuse; the adult may say or do things that let you know something is wrong. It may come in the form of a disclosure, complaint, or an expression of concern. There may be a

change in behaviour or well-being. Everyone within the organisation should understand what to do and where to get help, support and advice.

Types of Abuse:

The Care Act 2014 defines the following ten areas of abuse. These are not exhaustive but are a guide to behaviour that may lead to a safeguarding enquiry. This includes:

- **Physical Abuse**- including assault, hitting, slapping, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions
- **Domestic Violence/Domestic Abuse**- including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse, so called 'honour' based violence
- **Exploitation**- including sexual and/or criminal exploitation
- **Sexual Abuse**- including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography. Witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting
- **Psychological Abuse**- including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.
- **Financial or Material Abuse**- including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- **Modern Slavery**- Encompassing slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and those who coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.
- **Discriminatory Abuse**- including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment because you are, or are perceived to be different due to race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.
- **Organisational Abuse**- including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to long-term ill treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes or practices within an organisation.
- **Neglect and acts of omission**- including ignoring medication, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of necessities of life such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- **Self- Neglect**- This covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

Reporting Concerns:

Any Freelance provider or volunteer who becomes aware that an adult is or is at risk of being abused must raise the matter immediately with a member of the Waterside Art Group Committee or the designated safeguarding person.

- **In an emergency, or if you suspect you or someone else is in immediate danger, phone the Police on 999.**
- **If you have concerns or want to report abuse phone Hampshire Adult Services on: 0300 555 1386 (out of office hours 0300 555 1373) or phone the police on 101.**

Early sharing of information is key to providing an effective response where there are emerging concerns. To ensure effective safeguarding arrangements, no one should assume that someone else will do it.

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

The Designated Safeguarding Lead has been checked through DBS and holds an Enhanced DBS certificate.

Mental Capacity Act 2005/2020 (MCA)

The Mental Capacity Act defines someone as lacking capacity, because of an illness or disability such as a mental health problem, dementia or a learning disability, who cannot do one or more of the following four things:

- Understand information given to them about a particular decision
- Retain that information long enough to be able to make the decision
- Weigh up the information available to make the decision
- Communicate their decision (Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice). Waterside Art Group must involve an advocate if the person lacks capacity to make decisions about a safeguarding concern.

Support and guidance will be requested from Hampshire Adult Services should there be a concern about someone's capacity.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Waterside Art Group requires volunteers, freelance providers and activity leaders to maintain confidentiality. Information will only be shared in line with the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR).

Information will be shared with Hampshire County Council and the Police if there is a safeguarding concern.

Designated Safeguarding Lead

Mary York