

Suicide Prevention UK

Safeguarding Policy

Safeguarding means protecting an individual's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. The act of safeguarding is the activity undertaken to protect a person from harm, abuse or neglect.

Suicide Prevention UK is committed, therefore, to ensure that the Management Committee, volunteers and those who participate in activities run by the organisation have an understanding of Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at Risk and what forms abuse may take and that they know where to raise concerns if abuse is suspected or reported.

This policy therefore applies to all staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students on placement or anyone working on behalf of **Suicide Prevention UK** to safeguard children and young people and adults at risk.

Suicide Prevention UK
Suite 601
179 Whiteladies Road,
Bristol, BS8 2AG.
Tel: 0800 689 5652
www.spuk.org.uk
info@spuk.org.uk

Registered Charity Number:
1187866

Purpose

Suicide Prevention UK provides a multi-pronged strategy that supports individuals that are in distress, contemplating or actively planning suicide. This is done through the following services

- ASSISTline – a 24/7 telephone line manned by trained volunteers offering support and guidance for anyone in crisis or contemplating suicide or those concerned about an individual.
- Crisis Intervention Outreach- providing patrol, by foot, in and around Bristol City Centre and most common sites for suicide. Responding to telephone calls where face to face intervention is required and aids the emergency services and other outreach teams.
- Social Media Outreach- providing motivations posts, training opportunities, sharing missing persons details to aid search and rescue efforts. Offer trained support from volunteers via our social media platforms. Listed but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- Social Media platforms are used to raise awareness of mental health, suicide and the support available in the area.

The nature of our service means that our staff and volunteers come into contact with members of the public, daily, either via telephone, face to face or online.

A number of the individuals we encounter will be vulnerable, in need, pose a risk to themselves, or others, or a combination of all of these. **Suicide Prevention UK** may be the first or only point of contact for identifying safeguarding risks.

In addition, **Suicide Prevention UK** also aims to:

Provide a safe environment for vulnerable individuals using our service.

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Provide appropriate level training, support and resources for staff and volunteers to make informed and confident responses to specific safeguarding issues and fulfil their role effectively

Recommend that at least two adults are present during **Suicide Prevention UK** patrol sessions, or at events away from the premises, to ensure at least basic cover in the event of something impacting on the availability of one of the adults during the activities.

Be committed to working in partnership with other similar support services to continually improve and promote safeguarding initiatives.

Use appropriate recruitment procedures to assess the suitability of paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students, or anyone working on behalf of **Suicide Prevention UK** working with vulnerable adults and young people.

All **Suicide Prevention UK** volunteers, Management Committee members and those who participate in activities run by the organisation are inducted into this policy and procedure and have an understanding of the forms abuse can take and how to report any concerns. All trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff and students on placement hold the enhanced DBS certificates and copies of the relevant documents will be held on file by **Suicide Prevention UK**

Suicide Prevention UK will ensure all who are arranging events on their behalf are made aware of this policy.

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Part One: Safeguarding Children and Young People

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and guidance that seeks to protect children, namely;

- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018 You can access this guidance [here](#)
- Information sharing: Advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services to children, young people, parents and carers. 2018: You can access this guidance [here](#)
- Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0-25 years 2015 You can access this guidance [here](#)

In addition reference is made to the documents listed in the box on the right.

- The Children Act 1989
- United Convention of Rights of the Child 1991
- Data Protection Act 2018/General Data Protection Regulation
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Sexual Offences Act 2003
- The Children Act 2004
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- Children and Families Act 2014
- The Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019

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Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults:

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults is defined for the purposes of this policy as:

- Protecting children and young people from maltreatment;
- Taking action to enable all young people and vulnerable adults to have the best outcomes.

(Working Together to Safeguard Children 2018)

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Everyone who works with children and young people has a responsibility for keeping them safe.

Suicide Prevention UK believes that a young person or vulnerable adult should never experience abuse of any kind. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all young people or vulnerable adults at risk and to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

Abuse can take various forms:

- Physical
- Domestic violence and abuse
- Psychological and Emotional
- Financial or material
- Modern slavery
- Discriminatory

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- Organisational
- Neglect and Acts of Omission
- Self-Neglect
- Sexual
- Child Sexual Exploitation
- On Line abuse

Abuse is something that is done to another person, without their full understanding or consent, which harms them in some way. It may consist of a single act or repeated acts. Abuse may be carried out deliberately or unknowingly.

Abuse, or neglect, can take many forms and the circumstances of the individual case should always be considered. The following gives an explanation of the types of abuse and neglect that can occur;

- Physical abuse; *hitting, slapping, punching, burning*
- Domestic violence and abuse; *including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence.*
- Sexual abuse; *rape, indecent assault, inappropriate touching*
- Psychological abuse and 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; *stealing, selling assets*

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- Modern slavery; *Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment*
- Discriminatory abuse; *including racist, sexist, based on a person's disability and other forms of harassment)*
- 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 or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organization.*
- Neglect and acts of omission; *leaving in soiled clothes, failing to feed properly*
- Self-neglect; *neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding*
- Child sexual exploitation; *an individual or group taking advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator*
- Online abuse; *any type of abuse that happens on the internet. It can happen across any device that's connected to the web, like computers, tablets and mobile phones. It can be such things as social media, emails, online chat rooms, etc*

People may make the choice to remain in abusive situations and if they have the mental capacity to make that decision that may be appropriate, however the decision about mental capacity is a complex one and it is important that the correct assessment of capacity is undertaken within the safeguarding process.

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Part Two: Safeguarding Adults at Risk

Safeguarding is aimed at people with care and support needs who may be in vulnerable circumstances and at risk of abuse or neglect. In these cases, local services must work together to spot those at risk and take steps to protect them. (The Care Act 2014)

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. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.

The following six key principles underpin all adult safeguarding work:

1. **Empowerment:** people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent
2. **Prevention:** it is better to take action before harm occurs
3. **Proportionality:** the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
4. **Protection:** support and representation for those in greatest need
5. **Partnership:** local solutions through services working with their communities – communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse
6. **Accountability:** accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice

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Definition of Adults at Risk

An adult who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect

(The Care Act 2014)

The definition of an Adult covers all people over 18 years of age.

The Care Act also recognises the key role of Carers in relation to safeguarding. For example a carer may witness or report abuse or neglect; experience intentional or unintentional harm from the adult they are trying to support or a carer may (unintentionally or intentionally) harm or neglect the adult they support. It is important to view the situation holistically and look at the safety and well-being of both. The Act makes it clear throughout, the need for preventing abuse and neglect wherever possible. Observant professionals and other staff making early, positive interventions with individuals and families can make a huge difference to their lives, preventing the deterioration of a situation or breakdown of a support network.

Advice and information

For adults:

South Gloucestershire Council Customer Service Desk Adult Care Team can be accessed for advice or information contact 01454 868007

South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board Website:

www.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/adults

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Bristol City Council - Care Direct can be contacted on 0117 922 2700, 8.30am to 5pm, Monday to Friday. There's an answerphone service outside these hours.

Bristol City Council – Safeguarding Adults at Risk Website:

[Report suspected abuse \(bristol.gov.uk\)](http://bristol.gov.uk)

If an adult is in immediate danger dial 999 and ask for police assistance.

For children and young people:

South Gloucestershire Council ART Team can be accessed for advice or information contact on 01454 866000

South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children's Board Website:

www.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/children

Bristol City Council - contact First Response straight away on 0117 903 6444 if your concern relates to a disclosure of abuse requiring a same day response.

Bristol City Council Safeguarding Children website:

[Concerns about a child \(bristol.gov.uk\)](http://bristol.gov.uk)

South West Child Protection Procedures:

<http://www.proceduresonline.com/swcpp/southglos/index.html>

If a child is in immediate danger dial 999 and ask for police assistance

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Reporting Concerns

If a crime may have been, or is being, committed contact the Police on 101 or 999

Volunteers and Management Committee members should report any concern that they have about a child or an adult at risk to the Named Safeguarding Lead and Chair of the Management Committee unless the concern is about the Lead or Chair where it should be reported to the Vice Chair who will contact the South Gloucestershire Council Team below.

Children and Young people

Contact Bristol City Council Team on 0117 903 6444 or the Emergency Duty Team (out of hours and weekends) on 01454 615165

Be open and honest with the individual (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.

Adults at risk

To raise a concern contact South Gloucestershire Council's Customer Adult Care Team service desk on 01454 868007.

Where possible, agreement should be obtained from the adult before sharing personal information with third parties.

Record Keeping

If a concern is raised this should be documented and sent through to the **Named Officer** of **Suicide Prevention UK**

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Managing allegations against staff or volunteers

Any allegation will be fully investigated and **Suicide Prevention UK** will support staff/volunteers during this process. It is important that allegations are thoroughly investigated through the Safeguarding process so that allegations can be either proved or disproved for the protection of the child(ren), adult(s) at risk and staff.

All allegations should be reported within one working day to the senior manager of **Suicide Prevention UK**

Any allegation related to staff and/or volunteers working with Children and Young People and Adults must be reported to the South Gloucestershire Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO),

It is important to remember that abuse is defined by the impact on the individual not the intention of the abuser, in other words if someone does not have their needs cared for this can be just as damaging whether it is done deliberately or because a carer can no longer manage. Obviously, the way of then supporting the situation would be likely to be different.

People who behave abusively come from all backgrounds and walks of life. They may be doctors, nurses, social workers, advocates, staff members, volunteers or others in a position of trust. They may also be relatives, friends, neighbours, or people who use the same services as the person experiencing abuse.

Date reviewed: 09/01/23

Next review due: 09/01/24

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