

Safeguarding Adults Policy

This policy takes effect from the 1st of December 2021, revied on the 4 December 2023. Date of next review: December 2025

**Aims**

The Kingston Upon Thames Association for the Blind (KAB), charity registration number 249295, was established in 1966, to promote the interests of blind and partially sighted people living in the Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames. In this role, employees, trustees, and volunteers of the KAB are likely to come into contact with vulnerable adults, their carers, and their family members, which in most cases would be adults.

The Kingston upon Thames Association for the Blind (KAB) 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 KAB will make to safeguard an adult with care and support needs if they are deemed to be at risk or are at risk. This policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of KAB in working together with other professionals and agencies in promoting the adult’s welfare and safeguarding them from abuse and neglect.

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

This policy is intended to support staff and volunteers working within KAB 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 KAB 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.

This policy is based on:

- The Care Act 2014 and the Care and Support statutory guidance. - London Safeguarding Adults policy and procedures.

Under the Human Rights Act 1998, everyone has the right to live free from abuse and neglect. <https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/human-rights/human-rights-act>

Copies of this policy should be available within KAB and KAB will not tolerate the abuse of adults in the organisation and staff and volunteers should be made aware of how this policy can be accessed.

1

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

*Care* *and* *Support* *Statutory* *Guidance,* *Department* *of* *Health,* *updated* *October 2023*

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 who may be unable to do so because of an accident, disability, frailty, addiction or illness.

KAB adheres to following the six key principles that underpin safeguarding work (See Care and Support Statutory Guidance)

- Empowerment - Prevention

- Proportionality - Protection

- Partnership

- Accountability

KAB will not tolerate the abuse of adults and 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. KAB should ensure that the safeguarding action agreed to 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. KAB should be transparent and accountable in delivering safeguarding actions.

**What** **is** **Making** **Safeguarding** **Personal** **(MSP)?**

MSP means a case should be person-led and outcome-focused. The individual should be involved in identifying how best to respond to their safeguarding situation by giving them more choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing, and safety.

KAB will not tolerate the abuse of adults. KAB will ensure that adults are involved in their safeguarding arrangements and each individual is dealt with on a case-by-case basis. As adults may have different preferences, histories, and lifestyles, the same process may not work for all.

*It* *is* *likely* *that* *a* *volunteer* *will* *encounter* *a* *blind* *or* *partially* *sighted* *elderly* *person* *who* *faces* *an* *abusive* *relationship* *with* *their* *paid,* *or* *unpaid,*

*carer.*

**Who** **do** **adult** **safeguarding** **duties** **apply** **to?**

The Care Act 2014 sets out that adult safeguarding duties apply to *any* adult who:

• has care and support needs,

• is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse and neglect, and

2

• is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect, because of those needs.

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

The named responsible person for safeguarding duties for KAB is Mrs Odette Battarel, CEO and can be contacted at ceo@kingstonassociationforblind.org tel: 07375548558

All staff and volunteers should contact Mrs Odette Battarel for any concerns/queries they have regarding safeguarding adults. A log of the concern must be kept.

Mrs Odette Battarel will be responsible to make decisions about notifying adult social services if required and consider alternative actions, where necessary.

Mrs Odette Battarel 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. Mrs Odette Battarel will ensure they are up to date with their safeguarding adults training.

Members can also contact the Kingston Council Access and Safeguarding Team to raise a safeguarding concern

**Access and Safeguarding Team:**

* By email: Adult.safeguarding@kingston.gov.uk
* from 9.00am - 5.00pm on 020 8547 5005
* after 5pm please call 020 8770 5000

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

Staff and volunteers at KAB 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 KAB Safeguarding Lead will distribute Safeguarding Reporting Forms to all staff, trustees and volunteers. Further, the safeguarding lead will keep record of all matters reported with notes of action taken, if any.

- 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. Access should not be given to any unauthorised personal for accessing confidential information including the sharing of passwords.

3

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: o The police if a crime has been committed.

o Relevant regulatory bodies such as Care Quality Commission, Ofsted, Charities commission.

o Service commissioning teams.

o 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.

Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple and may affect one person or more. Staff and volunteers should look beyond single incidents to identify patterns of harm. Accurate recording of information will also assist in recognising any patterns.

As soon as Adult Social Services become involved, a 4-stage safeguarding adults process is followed. For more information about this 4-stage safeguarding adults process, refer to the London Safeguarding Adults Procedures.

**What** **are** **your** **roles** **and** **responsibilities?**

All staff, management, trustees, and volunteers at KAB are expected to report any concerns to the named person for safeguarding. If the allegation is against one of the KAB members, volunteers, trustees, or directors, seek advice from the KAB safeguarding lead Mrs Odette Battarel. If the allegation is against the safeguarding lead, seek advice from Access & Advice Team.

The designated safeguarding adults lead should be responsible for providing acknowledgement of the referral and brief feedback to the person raising the original concern. Feedback should be given in a way that will not make the situation worse or breach the Data Protection Act. If the police are involved, they should be consulted prior to giving feedback to the referrer to ensure any criminal investigation is not affected.

The local authority will decide on who will lead on a safeguarding enquiry should it progress to that stage. The named organisation should not conduct its own safeguarding enquiry unless instructed to do so by the local authority.

Staffandvolunteers should ensure thattheadultwithcareandsupportneeds isinvolvedatallstages of their safeguarding enquiry ensuring a person-centred approach is adopted.

4

**Complaints** **procedure**

KAB 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 KAB decision about the safeguarding concern, refer them to the Safeguarding Lead.

KAB 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.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 is to be used when decisions on behalf of those adults with care and support needs who are unable to make some decisions for themselves. Refer to the Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice, [https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-capacity-act-code-of-practice.](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-capacity-act-code-of-practice) You will need to involve an advocate if the person lacks capacity to make decisions about the safeguarding concern.

**Why** **is** **it** **important** **to** **take** **action?**

It is maybe 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**

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

It should, however, be noted that information should be shared with authorities if an adult is deemed to be at risk of immediate harm. Sharing the right information, at the right time, with the right people can make all the difference to preventing harm. For further guidance on information sharing and safeguarding see: <https://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/safeguarding-adults/sharing-information/keymessages.asp>

**Recruitment** **and** **selection**

KAB 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. Refer to the council’s guidance on Safer Recruitment (please note this guidance.

**Training,** **awareness** **raising** **and** **supervision?**

KAB ensures that all staff and volunteers receive basic awareness training on safeguarding adults as they may come across adults with care and support needs who may be at risk of abuse. Those adults may report things of concern to staff or volunteers who should be equipped with the basic knowledge around safeguarding adults and be confident to identify that abuse is taking place and

5

action is required. All staff and volunteers should be clear about the core values of KAB and commitment to safeguarding adults.

It is also useful to discuss training with staff who have attended training sessions to ensure they are embedding this in practice.

**Prevent**

Radicalisation and extremism of adults with care and support needs is a form of emotional/psychological exploitation. Radicalisation can take place through direct personal contact, or indirectly through social media.

If staff are concerned that an adult with care and support needs is at risk of being radicalised and drawn into terrorism, they should treat it in the same way as any other safeguarding concern.

For more information about Prevent see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

RBK – Royal Borough of Kingston Upon Thames:

[Adult safeguarding - Report a concern about an adult – www.kingston.gov.uk](https://www.kingston.gov.uk/adult-safeguarding/safeguarding-adults-mean)

End of Document

6