

MARSHFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE ASSOCIATION

SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Introduction

In this document “MCCA” refers to Marshfield Community Centre Association, “associates” refers to all MCCA employees, contractors, trustees and members, “the Centre” refers to any or all of the space available within Marshfield Community Centre and its surrounding grounds, and “user” refers to any organisation that hires space in the Centre.

MCCA manages and promotes the Centre and most activities in the Centre are run by one or more users with no MCCA involvement. Furthermore MCCA’s own activities do not include direct services or support for children, young people and vulnerable adults. Nevertheless MCCA recognises that safeguarding those members of society is everyone’s business and that all may become vulnerable at many stages in their lives.

MCCA is committed to ensure that all associates have an understanding of Safeguarding Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults and what forms abuse may take and that they know where to raise concerns if abuse is suspected or reported. The Appendix contains some explanations.

Policy

For most events users are responsible for managing the event in the Centre. Whenever one or more users manages an event MCCA relies on the Safeguarding Policy of those users, whether written or unwritten. However, to the extent that any associate is involved in managing an event (through his or her involvement with one of more users) he or she abides by this MCCA policy.

MCCA arranges a minority of events in the Centre. MCCA ensures all who are arranging an event on its behalf are made aware of this policy. All associates are made aware of this policy so they have an understanding of what forms abuse can take and how to report any concerns.

Associates should report any concern that they have about a child or vulnerable adult to the Chair unless the concern is about the Chair where it should be reported to a Custodian Trustee. The Chair or Custodian Trustee will contact the relevant SGC Team below. When any concern is raised this should also be documented and the documentation should be sent to the Chair or Custodian Trustee.

Members of the public can also report to the Police or relevant SGC Team.

Contact numbers for reporting

- ☐ Crime: If a crime may have been or is being committed contact the Police on 101 or 999
- ☐ Children and Young people: Contact South Gloucestershire Council’s First Point Team on 01454 866000 or the Emergency Duty Team (out of hours and weekends) on 01454 615165
- ☐ Vulnerable Adults: 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.

Managing allegations against associates

Any allegation against associates will be fully investigated and MCCA will support associates 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), vulnerable adult(s) and associates.

Any allegation related to associates working with Children and Young People must be reported to the South Gloucestershire Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) on 01454 868924.

Monitoring and review

This policy will be monitored by the General Committee to judge to what extent it is working and identify areas for improvement. In any event this policy will be formally reviewed every two years. The General Committee may amend this policy at any time.

MCCA General Committee

28th January 2023

Appendix

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children means:

- protecting children from maltreatment.
 - preventing the impairment of children's health or development.
 - ensuring children are growing up circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care.
 - taking action to enable all children to have the best life chances.
- (Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013)*

A “**vulnerable adult**” is someone “who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself or protect themselves from harm”

(No Secrets: Department of Health, March 2000)

This means that not all adults are vulnerable, but some may be vulnerable at times and others will be vulnerable all the time. It is important to talk to the appropriate people - contact South Gloucestershire Council's Customer

Adult Care Team service desk on 01454 868007.

“**Abuse** is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons”.

(No Secrets: Department of Health, March 2000)

Abuse includes:

- physical abuse, hitting, slapping, punching, burning
- sexual abuse, rape, indecent assault, inappropriate touching
- emotional abuse, belittling, name calling,
- financial or material abuse, stealing, selling assets
- neglect and acts of omission, leaving in soiled clothes, failing to feed properly
- discriminatory abuse (including racist, sexist, based on a person's disability and other forms of harassment)

Abuse may be carried out deliberately or unknowingly. Abuse may be a single act or repeated acts. Abuse is defined by the impact on the individual not the intention of the abuser – for example 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.

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.

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.