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**Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults Policy**

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| **Policy name** | Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults Policy |
| **Department** | Safeguarding |
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**Aim of policy**

This policy brings together the YMCAs duties, responsibilities and approach to dealing with adult abuse. It incorporates the full range of obligations under current safeguarding and counter terrorist and violent extremism legislation and best practice.

This policy applies to all staff, including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of YMCA Crewe.

**Legislation**

Safeguarding of Vulnerable Groups Act 2006.

Mental Capacity Act 2005.

The Care Act 2014.

Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (Prevent)

Modern Slavery Act 2015.

**Definitions**

The term 'vulnerable adult' refers to any person aged 18 years and over who is in community care 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 himself or herself, or unable to protect himself or herself against significant harm or serious exploitation. *(Law Commission 1997). (*Note - Although homeless people are not necessarily “vulnerable adults” under this definition, YMCA Crewe considers it best practice to follow this policy for all its service users.)

**Policy Statements**

The Association is committed to the safety of adults. The following principles will apply:

1. **Empowerment** - YMCA Crewe will promote empowerment, well-being, security and safety consistent with service users’ rights, capacity and personal responsibility, and prevent abuse occurring wherever possible.
2. **Prevention** - YMCA Crewe will manage services in a way which promotes safety and prevents abuse so that safeguarding is integral to the development and delivery of all of our services.
3. **Proportionality** - YMCA Crewe will ensure that the adult at risk is at the centre of all responses to allegations of harm, and using the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented, ensure that all activity is based on their preferred outcomes or best interests.
4. **Protection** - YMCA Crewe will ensure that there are consistent and effective responses to any concerns, allegations and disclosure of abuse and that the reporting and investigation and action is effective, bringing about appropriate results.
5. **Partnership** - YMCA Crewe will work in partnership with the Local Authority, based on the Cheshire East Multi Agency Information Sharing Agreement (vs. issued April 2015) through Information Sharing, Multi Agency Approaches (including Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub-MASH), collaboration and understanding in order to promote and protect the safety of vulnerable adults.

**Prevent**

Prevent aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and is key to the governments Counter terrorism strategy. Although the extent of extremism may be perceived as low, it has a high impact. We are clear that keeping young people and vulnerable adults and the community safe from these risks is a safeguarding matter and should be approached in the same way as any other safeguarding concern. Hence its inclusion in this policy.

YMCA Crewe recognises it needs to work closely with the Cheshire Constabulary Prevent Team, local authority and other partnership agencies, in the vital role they play in protecting vulnerable young people and adults from the risks of radicalisation and extremism.

Definitions:

* Radicalisation – is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and violent extremism and, in some cases, then to participate in terrorist groups.
* Extremism – is the use of extreme behaviour to support a belief or ideology. Not all extremism is harmful, but sometimes those who behave in an extreme way go on to become terrorists.

We will ensure:

* Staff are aware of how to identify, vulnerable individuals who might be at risk of being exploited by radicalists, and how to escalate and report any concerns to ChECS (Cheshire East Consultation Service) and the Police via the Cannel Panel, the mechanism for dealing with these issues
* Staff are aware of the role of the Channel Panel how it compliments existing safeguarding arrangements, and coordinates a range of partnership agency interventions designed to offer a holistic and positive response to the individual to divert they away for these influences and tackle their needs for employment/training/housing etc

**Depravation of Liberty Standards**

Staff will be aware of how to escalate and report any concerns they may have in relation to an individual; this will be incorporated into the training and update cycle.

**Our approach to safeguarding will be based on the following:**

Adult abuse is not acceptable and may often be a criminal offence. People who live in YMCA Crewe accommodation or receive any services from YMCA Crewe and who may be at a greater risk of abuse because of their age or the nature of their disability should be enabled to live and receive services in an environment that is free from prejudice and safe from any form of abuse.

As such, adults are entitled to

* live their life free from any form of harm, fear, abuse, exploitation and neglect
* Privacy
* Be treated with dignity
* Lead an independent life and be enabled to do so
* Be able to choose how they live their lives
* The protection of the law
* Have their rights upheld regardless of ethnic origin, sexuality, impairment or disability, age, religion or cultural background

In accordance with the guidance issued by Cheshire East Safeguarding Adults Board, “Stop Adult Abuse – Everyone’s Business (April 2015) we recognise that the welfare of vulnerable adults is paramount. We will therefore provide protection for the adults who receive YMCA Crewe’s services, based on the following organisational commitments:

* That safeguarding and protecting adults is a shared responsibility of all organisations who commit to holding each other to account
* The individual, family and community is at the heart of our safeguarding practice
* To engage in high quality multi agency working
* To respect that adults have a right to take risks and that this will sometimes restrict our ability to act
* A commitment to continuous improvement and learning

In practice this means the following:

1. YMCA Crewe will promote an approach of positive risk taking and defensible decision making in which the adult is fully involved at all times.
2. YMCA Crewe will recruit staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made.
3. YMCA Crewe will have robust systems in place for staff to use in the event that they suspect a vulnerable adult may be experiencing, or be at risk of, harm.
4. YMCA Crewe will take a robust approach to modern day slavery and human trafficking and is absolutely committed to its prevention. This refers to the arrangement or facilitation of travel for another person for reasons of exploitation, including slavery, servitude, or compulsory labour.
5. YMCA Crewe will recognise signs of domestic violence. Including, any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners, family members or part of shared households, regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to; Psychological abuse, Physical abuse, Sexual abuse, financial abuse and Emotional abuse. Any concerns, allegations or disclosure of domestic abuse will be reported and investigated. The YMCA Crewe will ensure that any action taken is effective, bringing about appropriate results in the best interests of the person.
6. Staff and volunteers will be trained in safeguarding as part of induction, supervision and ongoing cyclical, i.e. annual update training.
7. YMCA Crewe will inform service users of safeguarding information including ways to report allegations of abuse, or safeguarding concerns.
8. YMCA Crewe will collate information to audit and evaluate practice, and provide appropriate reports to relevant committees.
9. YMCA Crewe will endeavour to keep up to date with any national changes to strategy and practices, as they relate to safeguarding.
10. Service users will be made aware of how to report allegations of abuse, or safeguarding concerns.
11. Safeguarding principles and information will be promoted and easily accessible to service users using the appropriate methods.
12. YMCA Crewe will assess the safeguarding risks to current residents when deciding whether to offer accommodation to potential new residents.

**Procedures that link to this Policy:**

Lone Working

Health & Safety (all)

HR (in relation to staff and volunteers relevant procedures)

Safeguarding (all)

Prevent Procedures Guide