

ADULTS AT RISK SAFEGUARDING POLICY STATEMENT

The Relationships Service (TRS)

THE RELATIONSHIPS SERVICE'S STATEMENT ON SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AT RISK

1. The Relationships Service and all TRS staff including the Board of Trustees make the safety and protection from harm of all adults at risk involved in activities which come under TRS's responsibility their highest priority.

In Summary – Key Safeguarding Actions for Charity Trustees:

- Safeguarding should be a key governance priority for all charities.
- Ensure your charity has an adequate safeguarding policy, code of conduct and any other safeguarding procedures. Regularly review and update the policy and procedures to ensure that they are fit for purpose.
- Identify possible risks, including risks to your beneficiaries or to anyone else connected to your charity and any emerging risks on the horizon.
- Consider how to improve the safeguarding culture within your charity.
- Ensure that everyone involved with the charity knows how to recognise, respond to, report and record a safeguarding concern.
- Ensure people know how to raise a safeguarding concern.
- Regularly evaluate any safeguarding training provided, ensuring it is current and relevant.
- Review which posts within the charity can and must have a DBS check from the Disclosure and Barring Service.
- Have a risk assessment process in place for posts which do not qualify for a DBS check, but which still have contact with children or adults at risk.

2. It is the responsibility of all staff working within TRS to report concerns about abuse or significant harm to an adult at risk. This responsibility extends to all staff and not just those specifically working with adults at risk.

3. TRS has a duty to ensure that its staff fulfil their responsibilities to prevent abuse of adults at risk and to report any abuse discovered or suspected. All TRS staff are obliged to consult their manager about any concerns.

4. TRS will take all reasonable steps during its intake process to identify an adult at risk. Their additional needs will be recorded and the designated counsellor and supervisor will be informed and appropriate actions undertaken.

5. TRS recognises that any adult can be subject to abuse and all allegations of abuse will always be taken seriously and responded to swiftly and in accordance with Relates procedures.

PRINCIPLES

The guidance which accompanies this policy statement is based on the following principles:

- All adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice and to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment.
- TRS will seek to ensure that our services are inclusive and make reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability or impairment, we will also commit to continuous development, monitoring and review.
- The rights, dignity and worth of all adults will always be respected.
- We recognise that ability and disability can change over time, such that some adults may be additionally vulnerable to abuse, in particular those adults with care and support needs.
- We all have a shared responsibility to ensure the safety and well-being of all adults and will act appropriately and report concerns whether these concerns arise within TRS for example inappropriate behaviour of a practitioner, or in the wider community.
- All allegations will be taken seriously and responded to quickly in line with this policy.
- TRS recognises the role and responsibilities of the statutory agencies in safeguarding adults and is committed to complying with the procedures of the Local Safeguarding Adults Boards and Domestic Violence procedures.

WHAT IS SAFEGUARDING

The Relationships Service understands that safeguarding adults includes:

- Protecting their rights to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- People and organisations working together to prevent the risk of abuse or neglect, and to stop them happening.

- Making sure people’s wellbeing is promoted, taking their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs into account.
- Working with partners such as the Care Quality Commission (CQC), police, local councils, health agencies, other regulators and government departments (including the ISA’s Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)).

(Source: Care Quality Commission)

We ensure that this statement is supported both through our general approach to safeguarding and detailed guidance on safeguarding adults at risk. These are overseen by the TRS Board of Trustees, and include regular review and monitoring.

VERSION CONTROL

Previous version Issued	Jan 2023
Reviewed & Updated for TRS	Oct 2025