

HOTWELLS AND CLIFTONWOOD COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION POLICY ON THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

Hotwells & Cliftonwood Community Association (HCCA) recognises that protecting vulnerable adults is everybody's business.

Hotwells & Cliftonwood Community Association has a duty through our members, management, staff and volunteers to protect from abuse, vulnerable adults who they come into contact with.

1. It is the responsibility of the staff and Trustees of the HCCA to support access for all and to report any maltreatment of a vulnerable adult.
2. Volunteers, Service users, students and trainees who have reason to believe a vulnerable adult has been maltreated should report this to a staff member or Trustee.

DEFINITIONS

VULNERABLE ADULT

A person age 18 or older who:

Receives services from the HCCA, or is involved in HCCA activities or events.

Regardless of residence or type of service received, possesses a physical, mental, or emotional infirmity which impairs the person's ability to provide for his or her basic care without assistance and as a result of the infirmity and the dependency, the adult has an impaired ability to protect himself or herself from maltreatment.

ELDER ABUSE

A pattern of coercive and often violent behaviour that may involve physical emotional or financial exploitation that carers inflict on older adults. Elder neglect includes failure of a carer to supply an older adult with reasonable and necessary food, clothing, shelter, medical care or supervision.

- Signs of possible physical abuse: bruises, welts, fractures, restraint marks, lacerations, repeated "accidental" injuries.
- Signs of possible neglect: carer not able or fails to provide food, season-appropriate clothing, medical or dental care.
- Signs of possible self-neglect: lack of medication, dehydration, malnutrition, poor hygiene, decubitus ulcers.
- Signs of possible material abuse/financial exploitation: disparity between assets/income and lifestyle, sudden inability to pay bills, unprecedented transfer of assets, unwillingness of carer to spend money on elder.
- Signs of possible emotional abuse: confusion, excessive fear, insomnia, anxiety, resignation or withdrawal, excessive use of tranquilisers.

MALTREATMENT ABUSE

Includes assault, use of drugs to injure or to facilitate a crime, solicitation, inducement and promotion of prostitution, criminal sexual conduct, and conduct producing pain or injury or emotional pain.

NEGLECT

Failure to provide for basic needs for self or by carer.

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION

Unauthorized expenditures and failure to use resources for basic needs. Wilful use, withholding or disposal of vulnerable adult's funds.

Obtaining control of Vulnerable Adult funds by fraud, coercion, harassment.

Procedure

RESPONSIBILITY & ACTION PROCEDURE

Volunteers

Whilst respecting client confidentiality (see associated policies), report instances of suspected/alleged maltreatment and/or abuse to the Chair of Trustees, or in his/her absence another Trustee

If the suspected/alleged maltreatment involved an organisation employee, refer immediately to the Chair of the Trustees.

Organisation Staff

Gather information by interviewing the person making the report, or the client directly.

Obtain further details and the nature of the problem, immediate safety issues.

In consultation with the Chair of the Trustees,(or an other Trustee in his/her absence) devise a plan of action with the relevant external authorities to ensure that the reporting of the incident is followed through and appropriate action taken

Board of Trustees

Support and ensure appropriate training for staff and volunteers

Review policy at appropriate intervals