

FACT SHEET

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups

CARTREFI CYMUNEDOL GWYNEDD (CCG) RECOGNISES ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO SAFEGUARD VULNERABLE GROUPS FROM HARM. THE OVERALL AIM IS TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF ALL VULNERABLE GROUPS.

- We support and reinforce existing legislation and government guidance included in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006; the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008; the All Wales Interim Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse 2010.
- We also work with local partners to seek consistency with locally agreed framework and protocols.

Who is defined as vulnerable?

- A vulnerable adult is somebody who is aged 18 or over who is or may be in need of community care services because of mental health problems, learning difficulties or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against harm and/or exploitation.
- A 'child' or 'young person' is used to describe anyone under 18 years of age.

We recognise that vulnerable groups who use our services have a right to protection from abuse and the highest possible standard of care.

We are committed to protecting vulnerable groups and dealing with allegations, concerns and disclosures of abuse effectively.

We will maintain confidentiality when dealing with issues of safeguarding but may share information with partner agencies (for example, Social Services, Police, Womens Aid) in accordance with relevant legislation and agreed protocols.

Effective sharing and exchange of relevant information between professionals is essential in order to safeguard vulnerable groups.

What is abuse?

Abuse is defined as a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons. Abuse may be a single act or repeated acts. Abuse can occur in any relationship and in any location and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it.

Abuse may take many different forms including:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional / psychological
- Economic and financial
- Neglect
- Discriminatory and / or hate crime
- Domestic violence
- Forced marriage

Full definitions of each form of abuse are in CCG's Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Policy (H&Spol34).

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Indicators of abuse

There are many indicators of abuse, the indicators will vary due to the type of abuse.

- Physical abuse sufferers may show evidence of scratches, bruises, burns and scalds.
- Sexual abuse sufferers may show signs of withdrawal, difficulty in walking or sitting or a change in usual behaviour.
- Emotional or psychological sufferers may show high levels of stress or anxiety, self-harm, signs of depression or crave affection.
- Possible indicators of financial or economic abuse include a lack of possessions such as clothing or personal items missing such as a mobile phone.
- Victims of neglect may show the following signs - deterioration of health, rashes, sores, unsuitable clothing or untreated medical condition.

Full list of indicators and examples of abuse can be found in CCG's Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Policy(H&Spol34).

If you identify situations of concern where there is a risk you should report to customer services on **0300 123 8084** or using the appropriate referral form (H&Sf43) send to **cyfeirio@ccgwynedd.org.uk** as soon as possible

If out of hours contact Cyngor Gwynedd on **01248 353551**

If there is immediate concern for safety call the Emergency Services

For more information

Contact us on **0300 123 8084** or www.ccgwynedd.org.uk for further information or a copy of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Policy(H&Spol34).

If you would like to receive this leaflet in a different format, such as Braille, large text or in another language, contact us on 0300 123 8084.

