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# THAXTED DISABLED CENTRE

## Safeguarding Adults at Risk

### 1. PURPOSE

This policy sets out the Centre's approach to safeguarding vulnerable adults as part of its wider role of promoting Member welfare. Members of the Centre are defined as adults at risk due to their limited physical ability. This policy refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect adults who are suffering or are at risk of suffering significant harm.

### 2. SCOPE

As adults and/or professionals or volunteers, everyone has a responsibility to safeguard vulnerable adults and promote their welfare. In particular there are areas all trustees and volunteers must be alert to which could occur at the Centre or become apparent when members attend the Centre. This includes:

- Financial exploitation
- Negligent treatment
- Physical or emotional abuse
- Bullying or harassment
- Self neglect

The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- Has needs for care and support
- Is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect
- Is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of or the experience of abuse or neglect

### 3. RESPONSIBILITIES

#### a. Trustees/Management

- 1) Approve the policy
- 2) Monitor activities to ensure there are no breaches
- 3) Take necessary action including alerting the police if appropriate

#### b. Volunteer responsibilities

- 1) Understand and comply with Centre's requirements
- 2) Be alert to indicators that the member may be at risk

### 4. POLICY

The charity aims to ensure that they are welcomed into a safe, caring environment with a happy and friendly atmosphere.

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of adults at risk – and in particular protecting them from significant harm - depends upon effective joint working between agencies and professionals that have different roles and expertise.

For those adults who are suffering, or at risk of suffering significant harm, joint working is essential, to safeguard and promote their welfare and – where necessary – to help bring to justice the perpetrators of crimes against them. All volunteers and those in contact with members must:

- ✓ be alert to potential indicators of abuse or neglect;
- ✓ be alert to the risks which individual abusers, or potential abusers, may pose to vulnerable adults;
- ✓ share and help to analyse information so that an assessment can be made of the individual's needs and circumstances;
- ✓ contribute to whatever actions are needed to safeguard and promote the individual's welfare;
- ✓ take part in regularly reviewing the outcomes for the individual against specific plans; and
- ✓ work co-operatively with other carers unless this is inconsistent with ensuring the individual's safety.

The charity recognises its responsibility to implement, maintain and regularly review procedures, which are designed to prevent and to be alert to such abuse.

The charity is committed to maintaining good links with the statutory social care authorities.

The Centre does not offer personal care except on an incidental or emergency basis, but offers social and recreational activities to those who are capable of caring for themselves with support and appropriate facilities.

It is the policy of the Trustees to ensure that during Centre opening hours there will always be a minimum of 2 staff/volunteers present at any one time.

## **5. PROCEDURE**

In the event that any volunteer or Trustee becomes aware or is suspicious that any member of the Centre may have been (or be on an ongoing basis) subjected to any form of abuse the matter must be referred initially to the Centre Manager (or the Chairman of Trustees if more appropriate).

Particular aspects that volunteers should be alert to include:

- Unexplained injuries
- Physical or sexual assault
- Theft, fraud or doorstep crime

Throughout the handling of any issue the adult at risk will be asked what they would like to happen, made to feel safe, empowered and in control recognizing that adults have a right to make decisions which others might regard as unwise or where values are not aligned.

The Centre Manager is responsible for making a decision on who to contact to take the matter forward. The primary contact is the Essex Safeguarding Adults Board (ESAB) – telephone number 03330 131019.

Adopted: