



# Mid Devon Community Family Trust

## **Vulnerable Adults Policy**

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Mid Devon Community Family Trust is committed to ensuring that vulnerable people who use our services are not abused and that working practices minimise the risk of such abuse. This policy should be used in conjunction with the Mid Devon Community Family Trust Equal Opportunities Policy

### **Definition**

Vulnerable adults are people who are over 18 years of age and are getting or may need help and services to live in the community. Vulnerable adults may be unable to take care of themselves and unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation by other people.

Abuse can include: physical, financial, material, sexual, psychological, discriminatory, emotional abuse and neglect. Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and can be perpetuated by anyone.

Volunteers, staff and trustees have a duty to identify abuse and report it.

### **Support to volunteers and staff**

The volunteers and staff reporting of incidents of suspected or potential abuse may find that the victim and/or the other responsible adult concerned are upset or angry. The Relationship Educator will support you. Other support may take the form of support provided by work colleagues or support or counselling provided by an outside body if required.

Volunteers and staff themselves may also be the subject of an allegation of abuse.

While support will be offered, Mid Devon Community Family Trust will ensure that Social Services are given all assistance pursuing any investigation. Suspension and/or discipline may be implemented.

### **Suspect of abuse by a member of staff or volunteer**

Where a member of volunteers and staff is suspected of abuse the following action should be taken:

- The Chairperson and Relationship Educator should interview the member of volunteers and staff with a witness present.

- The Relationship Educator should make arrangements for interviewing the suspected victim. This should be done with a Mid Devon Community Family Trust volunteers or staff member and a support for the victim present.
- The purpose of the meeting is not to investigate but to establish whether there are grounds for the allegation
- While support will be offered, Mid Devon Community Family Trust will ensure that Social Services are given all assistance pursuing any investigation. Suspension and/or discipline may be implemented

## **Confidentiality**

Confidentiality is crucial to all our work and relationships and the Mid Devon Community Family Trust confidentiality policy should be adhered to except that the welfare of vulnerable adults is paramount and takes precedence over it. Do not keep concerns relating to potential abuse of vulnerable adults to yourself.

Confidentiality may NOT be maintained if the withholding of information will prejudice the welfare of the adult.

## **Contact information**

Allegation of the alleged abuse which occurred when the person is over 18 years old falls under the Protection of Vulnerable Adults and needs to be reported to the Devon Social Services Adult Care Duty Officer,

## **Contact**

Signed by:...Ed Thompson.....Position in  
 organisation:.....Chairperson..... Date 2019  
 Date to be updated:.....September 2020.....

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## **Contact**

Signed by:.....V J Southall.....Position in organisation: Relationship Educator

Date to be updated:.....September 2020.....