

## 2.4. Safeguarding Policy

### Introduction

Safeguarding vulnerable adults is a part of the wider role of safeguarding and promoting welfare. This refers to the activity which is undertaken to protect specific vulnerable adults who are experiencing significant harm or are at risk of suffering significant harm. All involved with Confide as Counsellors, Supervisors, Executive Committee Members and Trustees, have a responsibility to safeguard vulnerable adults and promote their welfare.

### BACP Guidelines

This policy should be read in conjunction with the BACP Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions, July 2018

<https://www.bacp.co.uk/media/3206/bacp-ethical-framework-for-the-counselling-professions-2018.doc>

### Definition

The BACP definition:

*Adult clients may be defined as vulnerable if they are:*

- *dependent on others for support*
- *at risk of neglect or abuse*
- *or are unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation.*

### The aims of Confide Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

- To recognise and prevent abuse or neglect wherever possible.
- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults
- Safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live.
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned.

Confide clients, such as those who have been homeless, older people or people with disabilities, are more likely to be abused or neglected. They may be seen as an easy target and may be less likely to identify abuse themselves or to report it. People with communication difficulties can be particularly at risk because they may not be able to alert others.

Sometimes people may not even be aware that they are being abused, and this is especially likely if they have a cognitive impairment. Abusers may try to prevent access to the person they abuse, and signs of abuse can often be difficult to detect. All involved with Confide as Counsellors, Supervisors, Executive Committee Members and Trustees should:

- Receive training in Adult Safeguarding
- 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

### **What are the types of abuse?**

Abuse can take many forms: Physical, and psychological including coercive control, sexual, neglect, discriminatory, organisational, financial, domestic abuse, Modern Slavery, organisational and self-neglect. Exploitation is noted as a common theme. Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other persons or person.

Examples of abuse are:

- Hitting, slapping, rough handling.
- Giving medication incorrectly.
- Deprivation of warmth, food, clothing health care etc.
- Any kind of sexual activity that the person has not consented or cannot consent to
- Misuse or theft of money or property
- Shouting, swearing
- Neglect of medical or physical need
- Discrimination or harassment

Abuse can happen anywhere by anyone but is usually someone the vulnerable adult knows. Some kinds of abuse are a criminal offence.

### **How might abuse come to light?**

- A client or someone may disclose abuse
- You may witness an abusive event happening
- You may notice changes in the client's behaviour

### **Confide rights and responsibilities:**

- To ensure all involved with Confide as Counsellors, Supervisors, Executive Committee Members and Trustees are aware of this policy and are adequately trained
- To investigate all concerns raised and act immediately if abuse is suspected
- To DBS check all Confide Counsellors and others that have direct access to vulnerable adults
- To report concerns in regard to a Confide Counsellor or others that have direct access to vulnerable adults to the Disclosure and barring service.
- To check at recruitment and at regular intervals Confide Counsellors DBS's

- To ensure that this policy is kept up to date and reviewed every two years
- To ensure that any concerns raised will be recorded appropriately and all information will be kept confidential. These concerns will be kept on file for the time that the client is with Confide Counsellors plus a further 3 years.

**Responsibilities** of all involved with Confide as Counsellors, Supervisors, Executive Committee Members and Trustees are

- To be familiar with the Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults policy and procedure and attend appropriate training
- To take appropriate action regarding the safeguarding of adults and children as described in the Safeguarding procedures ([3.1.9](#))
- To declare any existing or subsequent convictions. Failure to do so will be regarded as gross misconduct and may lead to dismissal.

Further information regarding Safeguarding vulnerable adults within the counselling professions in England and Wales can be found on the BACP website by clicking the link:

<https://www.bacp.co.uk/media/8764/bacp-safeguarding-vulnerable-adults-legal-resource-gpia030-jun20.pdf>