

Luddenden Foot Community Association

Safeguarding Adults at Risk

Policy Statement

This policy will enable Luddenden Foot Community Association (henceforth referred to as LCA in this document), to demonstrate its commitment to keeping safe the adults at risk with whom it works alongside. LCA acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.

It is important to have a policy and procedures in place so that staff, volunteers, service users and the management committee can work to prevent abuse and know what to do in the event of the abuse. This policy applies to all staff, management committee members, volunteers, sessional workers, students or volunteers acting on behalf of LCA.

The policy and procedures have been drawn up in order to enable LCA to promote good practice and work in a way that can prevent harm, abuse and coercion occurring. We will ensure that any allegations of abuse or suspicions are dealt with appropriately and the person experiencing abuse is supported.

The characteristics of adult abuse can take a number of forms and cause adults at risk to suffer fear, pain and distress reaching well beyond the time of the actual incident(s). Adults at risk may be too afraid or embarrassed to raise any complaint. They may be reluctant to discuss the concerns with other people or unsure who to trust or approach with their worries. There may be some situations where the person is unaware that they are being abused or have difficulty in communicating this information to others.

An adult at risk is defined as:-

An adult(s) who need community care services because of mental or other disability, age or illness, and who are, or may be unable to take care of themselves against harm exploitation.

It is acknowledged that significant numbers of adults at risk are abused and it is important that LCA has this policy and a set of procedures to follow to prevent abuse.

In order to implement the policy LCA will work:-

- To promote the freedom and dignity of the person who has or is experiencing abuse
- To promote the rights of all people to live free from abuse and coercion
- To ensure the safety and well being of people who do not have the capacity to decide how they want to respond to abuse that they are experiencing.
- To manage services in a way which promotes safety and prevents abuse

- Recruit staff and volunteers who work directly or indirectly with adults at risk, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Provide effective management for staff and volunteers, through supervision, support and training
- Will ensure that all management committee members, staff, volunteers, service users, carers /families are familiar with this policy and procedures
- Will work with other agencies within the framework of the Calderdale Safeguarding Adults Board Policy and Procedures
- Will act within the LCA confidentiality policy and will **usually** gain permission from service users before sharing information about them with any other agency
- Will make a referral to the Gateway to Care as appropriate
- Will endeavour to keep up to date with national developments relating to preventing abuse and welfare of adults
- Will ensure that the Designated Named Person understands his/her responsibility to refer incidents of adult abuse to the relevant statutory agencies (Police/Adult Social Care)