

Music in Our Bones

SAFEGUARDING - Vulnerable Adults Policy – Reviewed and agreed 2 June 2020

(Next review date AGM May 2021)

This policy is for the protection of vulnerable adults from abuse and in order to respect their rights.

This policy includes:

- A definition of abuse, setting out the current states of knowledge, based on most recent research on signs/patterns of abuse and features of abusive environments
- A definition of those vulnerable adults to whom the policy, procedure and practice refer

Music in our Bones:-

- actively promotes the well-being and empowerment of vulnerable adults through the services they provide
- acts in a way which supports the rights of the individual to lead an independent life based on self-determination and personal choice.
- Recognises people who are unable to make their own decisions and/or to protect themselves, their assets and bodily integrity
- Recognises that the right to self-determination can involve risk and ensure that such risks are recognised and understood by all concerned and minimised wherever possible (there should be an open discussion between the individual and the agencies about the risks involved to him or her)
- Ensures the safety of vulnerable adults by integrating strategies policies and services relevant to abuse within the framework of the NHS and Community Care Act 1990, the Mental Health Act 2007, the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 and the registered Homes Act 1984 and Care Standards Bill 2000.
- Ensures that when the right to an independent lifestyle and choice is at risk, the individual receives appropriate help, including advice, protection and support from relevant agencies and
- Ensures that the law and statutory requirements are known and used appropriately

Defining who is at risk

In this guidance a vulnerable adult is someone over 17

“who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or who may be unable to take care of him/herself, or unable to protect him/herself against significant harm or exploitation.”

What constitutes abuse?

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person(s). It may consist of single or repeated acts. It may be physical verbal or psychological, it may be an act of neglect or omission to act, or it may occur when a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial transaction to which s/he has not consented, or cannot consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it. It can include:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Neglect and/or acts of omission
- Discriminatory abuse

Any of these may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent, negligence or ignorance. Some incidents of abuse will constitute a criminal offence. Vulnerable adults are in these cases entitled to the same protection of the law as any other citizens.

Allegations of criminal offenses require action being taken by the Police as a matter of urgency.

Neglect and poor professional practice also need to be taken into account as it can lead to institutional abuse resulting in ill-treatment of vulnerable individuals.

Who may be the abuser?

- A Family Carer, relative, friend or neighbour
- A member of staff at day or residential care homes
- A member of a recognised professional group with contact
- A volunteer or another member of any community group accessed by a vulnerable person
- A person who deliberately targets vulnerable people

Abuse may occur in any setting bringing the vulnerable person in contact with others. Assessment of the environment is relevant because exploitation or deception, misuse of authority, intimidation or coercion may render a vulnerable adult incapable of making his/her own decisions.

Music in Our Bones Procedures

TO ENSURE BEST AND SAFE PRACTICE:

1. Anyone employed by MIOB will be DBS checked and aware of the importance of Equal Opportunity Issues, Non-discriminatory practice, and vulnerable adult issues.
2. We will aim to ensure all our work is as inclusive as possible and that everyone is welcomed without judgement, and that we are as sensitive and responsive to diversity issues as possible.
3. Never teaching alone, we are always in group settings and working alongside volunteers and other professionals so peer- group reflection on and consultation about practice is embedded in the way we work.
4. We continually monitor one another's work and the belief systems which underpin that work and aim to support each other to be aware of issues which might cause individuals distress through our ignorance or omission. We do this via through on-going peer supervision and more formally through termly singing leader meetings.
5. We have membership to the Natural Voice Practitioners Network and regularly attend training events.

IF WE HAVE ANY VULNERABLE ADULT CONCERNS:

6. Any incident of concern reported or noticed at a singing session by singing leaders or volunteers will be discussed and noted. A report will be completed by a member of MIOB (see Appendix 1) which will then be discussed with the chair of MIOB Trustees and the appropriate follow up action taken.
7. Careful on-going monitoring will follow any such incidents of concern to ensure that further action is not required.
8. The Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) Consultation Line on 0345 6061499 will be contacted, when this is deemed necessary by MIOB's vulnerable adults lead to discuss whether the situation we are concerned about should be the subject of a safeguarding referral.
9. Trustees will be informed of any incidents of concern at their three monthly meetings to ensure that these issues are closely monitored.
10. Aware of Suffolk County Council procedures for Vulnerable Adults at risk of abuse, we will, where this is the agreed course of action, complete a request for a POVA if serious allegations were disclosed to us, or if we had serious concerns about someone's safety and well-being. We would always try to ensure that the vulnerable adult concerned was aware of the actions we were taking on their behalf.

**Contact name and mobile number: judith.goldsmith@suerydercare.org
or 07766120321**

Appendix 1

Music In Our Bones Incident Report Form

Name

Workshop Name and Date

Address

Telephone No

Brief Description of what happened (include times and dates)

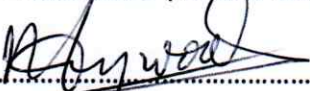
Names and Contacts of witnesses

Name of person completing form

Date

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy Review dates

2020 Agreed by trustees at AGM 2 June 2020 (review date AGM May 2021)

Chair Ian Heywood Signature..........date 13/7/20

Treasurer Ian Flower Signature..........date 10/7/20