



Play in Ltd

Vulnerable Adults Policy

Our commitment to safeguarding

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights; it can take many forms. The staff and volunteers in Play in Ltd are committed to practice which promotes the welfare of vulnerable adults and safeguards them from harm.

Staff and volunteers in our organisation accept and recognise our responsibilities to develop an awareness of the issues that cause vulnerable adults harm, and to establish and maintain a safe environment for them.

We will not tolerate any form of abuse wherever it occurs or whoever is responsible. We are committed to promoting an atmosphere of inclusion, transparency and openness and are open to feedback from the people who use our services, carers, advocates, our staff and our volunteers with a view to how we may continuously improve our services/activities.

Forms of abuse of Vulnerable adults are

- **Physical abuse** including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions
- **Sexual abuse** including rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the vulnerable adult has not consented, or could not consent or was pressured into consenting
- **Psychological abuse**, including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks
- **Financial or material abuse** including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits
- **Neglect and acts of omission** including ignoring medical or physical care needs,
- failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating
- **Bullying of a vulnerable adult**, whether emotional and/or physical, also constitutes abuse
- **Domestic abuse and forced marriage** can also involve the abuse of a vulnerable adult
- **Discriminatory abuse** including racist, sexist, because a person is disabled, other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment

Concern about an Adult at the club/disclosure

If a member of staff working with children has concern that an adult is in need of services for his/herself, that his/her capacity to provide adequate care to the child is affected by his/her vulnerability, or that the adult may be suffering abuse or exploitation, then **the staff member, student or volunteer should:**

- Stop and concentrate on what you are observing or being told
- Ensure the person's (and any others) immediate safety
- Give the Vulnerable Adult time and attention.
- Allow the Vulnerable Adult to give a spontaneous account; do not stop a Vulnerable Adult who is freely recalling significant events.
- Do not promise confidentiality or agree to keep something secret
- Do not investigate yourself and avoid asking leading questions
- Reassure the Vulnerable Adult that: they have done the right thing in telling you; they have not done anything wrong
- Tell the Vulnerable Adult what you are going to do next and explain that you will need to get help to keep him/her safe.
- Obtain the necessary information to make an informed referral

- Discuss with the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or his/her deputy
- Make and keep a record of the incident and actions taken.

Logging an incident

All information about the concern about the adult in need of services will be recorded on the **Logging a Concern** form as soon as possible after the concern has arisen. If an incident has occurred, this must be recorded on an **Incident Record**. The record should include:

- Date of the disclosure or of the incident causing concern
- Date and time at which the record was made
- Name and date of birth of the person involved
- A factual report of what happened. If recording a disclosure, you must use the person's own words.
- Name, signature and job title of the person making the record.

The record will be given to the Club's DSL who will decide whether they need to contact Social Care or make a referral. All referrals to Social Care will be followed up in writing within 48 hours. If a member of staff thinks that the incident has not been dealt with properly, they may contact Social Care directly.

We will endeavour to safeguard vulnerable adults by:

- Adhering to our safeguarding vulnerable adult policy and ensuring that it is supported by robust procedures
- Carefully following the procedures laid down for the recruitment and selection of staff and volunteers
- Providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- Implementing clear procedures for raising awareness of and responding to abuse within the organisation and for reporting concerns to statutory agencies that need to know, while involving carers and vulnerable adults appropriately
- Ensuring general safety and risk management procedures are adhered to
- Promoting full participation and having clear procedures for dealing with concerns and complaints
- Managing personal information, confidentiality and information sharing
- Safeguarding vulnerable adults by implementing a code of behaviour for all involved with the organisation, including visitors.

This policy was adopted by: Play in Ltd	Date: Sept 2021
To be reviewed: Sept 2022	Signed:

Written in accordance with the Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021): Safeguarding and Welfare requirements: Introduction [3.2] and Child protection [3.7].