

FACT SHEET

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups

CARTREFI CYMUNEDOL GWYNEDD (CCG) RECOGNISES ITS RESPONSIBILITY TO SAFEGUARD VULNERABLE GROUPS AT RISK FROM HARM. THE OVERALL AIM IS TO PROTECT AND PROMOTE THE WELFARE OF ALL VULNERABLE GROUPS.

- We support and reinforce existing legislation and government guidance included in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006; the All Wales Child Protection Procedures 2008; the All Wales Interim Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults from Abuse 2010; Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014 and Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- We also work with local partners to seek consistency with locally agreed framework and protocols.

Safeguarding is about protecting children and adults from abuse or neglect and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers.

Who is defined as vulnerable?

- A vulnerable adult is somebody who is aged 18 or over who is or may be in need of community care services because of mental health problems, learning difficulties or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against harm and/or exploitation.
- A 'child' or 'young person' is used to describe anyone under 18 years of age.

We recognise that vulnerable groups, which include children and adults at risk, who use our services have a right to protection from abuse and the highest possible standard of care.

We are committed to protecting vulnerable groups and dealing with allegations, concerns and disclosures of abuse or neglect effectively.

We will maintain confidentiality when dealing with issues of safeguarding but may share information with partner agencies (for example, Social Services, Police, Domestic Abuse Agencies) in accordance with relevant legislation and agreed protocols.

Effective sharing and exchange of relevant information between professionals is essential in order to safeguard vulnerable groups.

We will co-operate fully with other agencies and partners in dealing with safeguarding issues

What is abuse?

Abuse may take many different forms (and includes abuse taking place in any setting, whether in a private dwelling, an institution or any other place) including:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional / psychological
- Economic and financial - including having money or other property stolen, being defrauded, being put under pressure in relation to money or other property, having money or other property misused
- Neglect
- Discriminatory and / or hate crime
- Domestic violence
- Forced marriage
- Modern Slavery - including human trafficking, slavery, child slavery, debt bondage, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.

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Full definitions of each form of abuse are in CCG's Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Policy.

Neglect - means a failure to meet a person's basic physical, emotional, social or psychological needs, which is likely to result in an impairment of the person's well-being i.e a person's health or a child's development

Indicators of abuse and neglect:

There are many indicators of abuse, the indicators will vary due to the type of abuse and neglect.

- Physical abuse sufferers may show evidence of scratches, bruises, burns and scalds.
- Sexual abuse sufferers may show signs of withdrawal, difficulty in walking or sitting or a change in usual behaviour.
- Emotional or psychological sufferers may show high levels of stress or anxiety, self-harm, signs of depression or crave affection.
- Possible indicators of financial or economic abuse include a lack of possessions such as clothing or personal items missing such as a mobile phone.
- Victims of neglect may show the following signs - deterioration of health, rashes, sores, unsuitable clothing or untreated medical condition.

Full list of indicators and examples of abuse and neglect can be found in CCG's Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Policy.

One of the most important principles of safeguarding is that it is everyone's responsibility.



It is not our duty to prove that abuse or neglect has occurred, however it is our duty to report any concern.

How to Report?

If you identify situations of concern where there is a risk you should report to customer services on **0300 123 8084** as soon as possible.

If out of hours (5pm-9am) contact Cyngor Gwynedd on **01248 353551** or the relevant Local Authority.

If there is immediate concern for safety call the Emergency Services on **999**.

For more information

Contact us on **0300 123 8084** or www.ccgwynedd.org.uk for further information or a copy of the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Policy.

If you would like to receive this leaflet in a different format, such as Braille, large text or in another language, contact us on 0300 123 8084.

