

# Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum

## Safeguarding Adults Policy

Version 1	Date
Named Safeguarding Lead	Sue Stocks
Review Date	29 <sup>th</sup> December 2022
File Location	Policies
Signed	



## Aims

The CIO's objects (the Objects) are:

"To relieve the needs of children with disabilities and/or additional needs and their parent and families in Lewisham, London; through participation in shaping local services, the provision of education information and support. In advancing these purposes the charity shall within the London Borough of Lewisham:"

- a. develop strategy and represent families of 'Children with Special Needs';
- b. to ensure parent participation to enable parents to get involved in service planning and decision making so that services meet the needs of families with disabled children;
- c. provide a liaison point for statutory and voluntary agencies;
- d. raise awareness of issues faced by 'Children with Special Needs' and their families;
- e. share experiences, knowledge and skills with other relevant organisations and individuals; and
- f. inform the London Borough of Lewisham of any actual or potential breaches of current policy regarding 'Children with Special Needs'."

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum (LPCF) are a registered charity. We are a group of parent carers who have children or young people with a disability or additional need, living in the Borough of Lewisham.

The aim of the Parent Forum is to encourage parent participation and engagement and to get the best services for our children. Working with the local authority, education, health and social care, voluntary organisations and universal services.

The important thing about a parent forum is that our aim is not just to think about our own children but **ALL of the children and young people** living in our area, as collectively we have a stronger voice.

### We undertake the following activities:

- Working with the Children with Complex Needs Team (Local Authority) on the SEND Strategy.
- Our main workstream is the Local Offer and Communication and Engagement.
- SEND Guidance for parents and carers has now been published on the Local Offer.
- We encourage engagement in consultations on current policies.
- We represent parents/carers at strategic level on the SEND Programme Board.
- Attend training, events and network on behalf of parents/carers.
- Organise Parent Forum Meetings, training workshops and topical events for our parents and carers.
- Provide a regular newsletter.
- Provide an informative website.
- Monthly drop-in information service at Kaleidoscope Children's Centre once a month together with other voluntary organisations.
- Talk to other parents about what is going on in the borough

and get their views and opinions and feedback to the National Network of Parent Carer Forums and the Department of Education.

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum will benefit from a robust safeguarding policy for our parents and carers. We, as a Parent Forum, will have insight into many of their issues and difficulties in supporting their disabled children/children. This will help us to be vigilant in areas where intervention may be needed.

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum will not tolerate the abuse of adults in any of its forms and is committed to safeguarding adults with care and support needs from harm.

This policy outlines the steps Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum will make to safeguard an adult with care and support needs if they are deemed to be at risk or at risk. This policy sets out the roles and responsibilities of Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum in working together with other professionals and agencies in promoting the adult's welfare and safeguarding them from abuse and neglect.

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum will ensure that decisions made will allow adults to make their own choices and include them in any decision making. Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum will also ensure that safe and effective working practices are in place.

This policy is intended to support staff, self-employed staff, trustees, volunteers and contractors working within Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum to understand their role and responsibilities in safeguarding adults. All staff and volunteers are expected to follow this policy.

The key objectives of this policy are for all employees and volunteers of Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum to:

- have an overview of adult safeguarding
- be clear about their responsibility to safeguard adults
- ensure the necessary actions are taken where an adult with care and support needs is deemed to be at risk

This policy is based on:

- The Care Act 2014 and the Care and Support statutory guidance
- London Safeguarding Adults policy and procedures
- Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board's local procedures and appendices

Under the Human Rights Act 1998, everyone has the right to live free from abuse and neglect.

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/human-rights/human-rights-act>

Copies of this policy should be available within Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum and Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum will not tolerate the abuse of adults in the organisation and staff and volunteers should be made aware of how this policy can be accessed.

### **What is Safeguarding adults?**

*'Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding*

*on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.'*  
*Care and Support Statutory Guidance, Department of Health, updated February 2017*

All adults should be able to live free from fear and harm. But some may find it hard to get the help and support they need to stop abuse.

An adult may be unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation due to many reasons, including their mental or physical incapacity, sensory loss or physical or learning disabilities. This could be an adult who is usually able to protect themselves from harm but maybe unable to do so because of an accident, disability, frailty, addiction or illness.

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum adheres to following the six key principles that underpin safeguarding work (See Care Act guidance)

- Empowerment
- Prevention
- Proportionality
- Protection
- Partnership
- Accountability

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum will not tolerate the abuse of adults in support staff, self-employed staff, trustees, volunteers and contractors should ensure that their work reflects the principles above and ensure the adult with care and support needs is involved in their decisions and informed consent is obtained. Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum should ensure that the safeguarding action agreed is the least intrusive response to the risk. Partners from the community should be involved in any safeguarding work in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse. Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum should be transparent and accountable in delivering safeguarding actions.

### **What is Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)?**

MSP means a case should be person-led and outcome-focused. The individual should be involved in identifying how best to respond to their safeguarding situation by giving them more choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety.

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum will not tolerate the abuse of adults  
Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum will ensure that adults are involved in their safeguarding arrangements and each individual is dealt with on a case by case basis. As adults may have different preferences, histories and life styles, the same process may not work for all.

*One of our autistic parent carers may be taken financial advantage of by family or friends.*

*One of our young people in supported living may be being abused by staff or fellow residents, by taking their money, their food, violating their space, hurting them, bullying.*

### **Who do adult safeguarding duties apply to?**

The Care Act 2014 sets out that adult safeguarding duties apply to *any* adult who:

- has care and support needs, and
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse and neglect, and
- is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect, because of those needs.

### **Who do I go to if I am concerned?**

The named responsible person for safeguarding duties for Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum is Sue Stocks on 07534568020 or outside hours on 07929031591.

All support staff, self-employed staff, trustees, volunteers and contractors Sue Stocks for any concerns/queries they have in regards to safeguarding adults. Secondary contact for reporting is Nalan Salih, Chair of the Board, on 07397 529750. A log of the concern must be kept.

Sue Stocks will be responsible to make decisions about notifying adult social services if required and consider alternative actions, where necessary.

Sue Stocks will also ensure that the safeguarding adults policies and procedures are in place and up to date. They will ensure a safe environment is promoted for support staff, self-employed staff, trustees, volunteers and contractors and adults accessing the service. Sue Stocks will ensure they are up to date with their safeguarding adults training.

### **What should I do if I am concerned?**

Support staff, self-employed staff, trustees, volunteers and contractors at Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum who have any adult safeguarding concerns should:

1. Respond
  - Take emergency action if someone is at immediate risk of harm/in need of urgent medical attention. Dial 999 for emergency services
  - Get brief details about what has happened and what the adult would like done about it, but do not probe or conduct a mini-investigation
  - Seek consent from the adult to take action and to report the concern. Consider whether the adult may lack capacity to make decisions about their own and other people's safety and wellbeing. If you decide to act against their wishes or without their consent, you must record your decision and the reasons for this.
  
2. Report
  - Report to Sue Stocks, regarding any potential safeguarding concerns.
  
3. Record
  - We have a Section 42 Enquiry Report which will be completed by Sue Stocks, the safeguarding lead. There will be a copy saved with the safeguarding policy and also one with the safeguarding policy on file. The Section 42 Enquiry Report will be stored on the OneDrive with a password (if possible) and accessible by Sue Stocks and Nalan Salih, Chair of LPCF. We will also keep a secure safeguarding file in the office, and a copy placed on the vulnerable adults file.
  - As far as possible, records should be written contemporaneously, dated and signed.
  - Keep records about safeguarding concerns confidential and in a location where the alleged abuser will not have access to the record. Access should not be given to any unauthorised person for accessing confidential information including the sharing of passwords. [Data Protection Policy – Lewisham Parent & Carer's Forum \(lewishamparentcarer.org.uk\)](https://www.lewishamparentcarer.org.uk)

#### 4. Refer

In making a decision whether to refer or not, the designated safeguarding lead (Sue Stocks) will take into account:

- (1) the adult's wishes and preferred outcome
- (2) whether the adult has mental capacity to make an informed decision about their own and others' safety
- (3) the safety or wellbeing of children or other adults with care and support needs
- (4) whether there is a person in a position of trust involved
- (5) whether a crime has been committed

This should inform the decision whether to notify the concern to the following people:

- the police if a crime has been committed and/or
- relevant regulatory bodies such as Care Quality Commission, Ofsted, Charities commission
- service commissioning teams
- family/relatives as appropriate (seek advice from adult social services)

The designated safeguarding lead (Sue Stocks) should keep a record of the reasons for referring the concern or reasons for not referring.

Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple and may affect one person or more. Support staff, self-employed staff, trustees, volunteers and contractors should look beyond single incidents to identify patterns of harm. Accurate recording of information will also assist in recognising any patterns.

As soon as Adult Social Services becomes involved, a 4-stage safeguarding adults process is followed. For more information about this 4-stage safeguarding adults process, refer to the London Safeguarding Adults Procedures.

#### **What are your roles and responsibilities?**

All staff, management, trustees and volunteers at Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum are expected to report any concerns to the named person for safeguarding. If the allegation is against one of Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum members, support staff, self-employed staff, trustees, volunteers and contractors seek advice from Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum safeguarding lead Sue Stocks. If the allegation is against the safeguarding lead, seek advice from Lewisham's Access & Advice Team.

The designated safeguarding adults lead (Sue Stocks) should be responsible for providing acknowledgement of the referral and brief feedback to the person raising the original concern. Feedback should be given in a way that will not make the situation worse or breach the Data Protection Act. If the police are involved, they should be consulted prior to giving feedback to the referrer to ensure any criminal investigation is not affected.

The local authority will decide on who will lead on a safeguarding enquiry should it progress to that stage. LPCF should not conduct its own safeguarding enquiry unless instructed to do so by the local authority.

Support staff, self-employed staff, trustees, volunteers and contractors should ensure that the adult with care and support needs is involved at all stages of their safeguarding enquiry ensuring a person-centred approach is adopted.

### **Complaints procedure**

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum promotes transparency and honesty when things go wrong. All support staff, self-employed staff, trustees, volunteers and contractors should apologise and be honest with service users and other relevant people when things go wrong.

If a support staff, self-employed staff, trustees, volunteers and contractors or any other member of the organisation is unhappy with Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum decision about the safeguarding concern, refer them to [Microsoft Word - LPCF Complaints Policy \(lewishamparentcarer.org.uk\)](https://www.lewishamparentcarer.org.uk/microsoft-word-lpcf-complaints-policy)

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum is committed to ensuring that support staff, self-employed staff, trustees, volunteers and contractors who in good faith whistle-blow in the public interest, will be protected from reprisals and victimisation.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 is to be used when decisions on behalf of those adults with care and support needs who are unable to make some decisions for themselves. Refer to the Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-capacity-act-code-of-practice>. You will need to involve an advocate if the person lacks capacity to make decisions about the safeguarding concern.

### **Why is it important to take action?**

It may be difficult for adults with care and support needs to protect themselves and to report abuse. They rely on you to help them.

### **Confidentiality and information sharing**

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum expects all support staff, self-employed staff, trustees, volunteers and contractors to maintain confidentiality at all times. In line with Data Protection law, Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum does not share information if not required.

It should however be noted that information should be shared with authorities if an adult is deemed to be at risk of immediate harm. Sharing the right information, at the right time, with the right people can make all the difference to preventing harm. For further guidance on information sharing and safeguarding see: <https://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/safeguarding-adults/sharing-information/keymessages.asp>

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum is signed up to the Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board information sharing agreement.

### **Recruitment and selection**

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum is committed to safe employment. Safe recruitment practices, such as Disclosure and Barring checks reduce the risk of exposing adults with care and support needs to people unsuitable to work with them. Refer to the council's guidance on Safer Recruitment (please note this guidance is currently being updated).

### **Training, awareness raising and supervision?**

Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum ensures that all support staff, self-employed staff, trustees, volunteers and contractors receive basic awareness training on safeguarding adults as they may come across adults with care and support needs who may be at risk of abuse. Those adults may report things of concern to staff or volunteers who should be equipped with the basic knowledge around safeguarding adults and be confident to identify that abuse is taking place and action is required. All staff and volunteers should be clear about the core values of Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum and commitment to safeguarding adults.

It is also useful to discuss training with staff who have attended training sessions to ensure they are embedding this in practice.

Voluntary organisations (including volunteers) who support adults with care and support needs can access the basic awareness safeguarding adults training provided by Lewisham Council. Free on-line training is also available. See: [Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board - Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board > Safeguarding Adults Training \(safeguardinglewisham.org.uk\)](https://safeguardinglewisham.org.uk)

Similarly, all support staff, self-employed staff, trustees, volunteers and contractors may encounter concerns about the safety and wellbeing of children. For more information about children's safeguarding, refer to Lewisham Parent and Carer's Forum Children's safeguarding policy [Safeguarding Policy – Lewisham Parent & Carer's Forum \(lewishamparentcarer.org.uk\)](https://lewishamparentcarer.org.uk)

### **Prevent**

Radicalisation and extremism of adults with care and support needs is a form of emotional/psychological exploitation. Radicalisation can take place through direct personal contact, or indirectly through social media.

If staff are concerned that an adult with care and support needs is at risk of being radicalised and drawn into terrorism, they should treat it in the same way as any other safeguarding concern.

For more information about Prevent see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

### **Useful contacts**

Sue Stocks for any concerns/queries they have in regards to safeguarding adults. Secondary contact for reporting is Nalan Salih, Chair of the Board, on 07397 529750.

If your concern relates to an adult at risk of harm or abuse, please contact our Access & Advice Service (first point of contact for adult social services) on 027 527 2299 or email [access.service@islington.gov.uk](mailto:access.service@islington.gov.uk)



## **Useful links**

Care act- <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

London Safeguarding adults policy and procedures- <http://londonadass.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2015/02/LONDON-MULTI-AGENCY-ADULT-SAFEGUARDING-POLICY-AND-PROCEDURES.pdf>

Carer and support statutory guidance-

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/506202/23902777\\_Care\\_Act\\_Book.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/506202/23902777_Care_Act_Book.pdf)

Prevent-

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevent-duty-guidance>

Information sharing-

<https://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/safeguarding-adults/sharing-information/keymessages.asp>

## **Appendix 1**

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

The Care and Support statutory guidance sets out the 10 main types of abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological
- Financial abuse
- Discriminatory
- Organisational
- Domestic violence
- Modern Slavery
- Self-neglect

However, you should keep an open mind about what constitutes abuse or neglect as it can take many forms and the circumstances of the individual case should always be considered.

For more information, read section 14.17 of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance.

### **What are the possible signs of abuse?**

Abuse and neglect can be difficult to spot. You should be alert to the following possible signs of abuse and neglect:

- Depression, self-harm or suicide attempts
- Difficulty making friends
- Fear or anxiety
- The person looks dirty or is not dressed properly,
- The person never seems to have money,
- The person has an injury that is difficult to explain (such as bruises, finger marks, 'non-accidental' injury, neck, shoulders, chest and arms),
- The person has signs of a pressure ulcer,
- The person is experiencing insomnia
- The person seems frightened, or frightened of physical contact.
- Inappropriate sexual awareness or sexually explicit behaviour
- The person is withdrawn, changes in behaviour

You should ask the person if you are unsure about their well-being as there may be other explanations to the above presentation.

### **Who abuses and neglects adults?**

Abuse can happen anywhere, even in somebody's own home. Most often abuse takes place by others who are in a position of trust and power. It can take place whether an adult lives alone or with others. Anyone can carry out abuse or neglect, including:

- partners;
- other family members;
- neighbours;
- friends;
- acquaintances;
- local residents;
- people who deliberately exploit adults they perceive as vulnerable to abuse;
- paid staff or professionals; and
- volunteers and strangers

## Raising a safeguarding concern

You are informed or become aware of possible abuse or neglect

Gather information,

- How does the adult wish for the concern to proceed
- What changes/support would they like as a result of this concern being raised?

### RESPOND

Take action to ensure the immediate safety and welfare of the adult (and any other person/child at risk)

Consider:

- Does medical attention need to be organised? (dial 999)
- Is urgent police presence required? (dial 999)

### REPORT

Has a crime been committed? If so, does it need to be reported?  
(dial 101 unless there is an immediate risk, in which case dial 999)

Preserve forensic evidence (if any)

### REFER

Decide whether to raise a safeguarding concern, and if so, take action  
Do this:

- Immediately where the concern is urgent and serious
- Within the same working day for any other concerns

### RECORD

Document the incident and any actions or decisions taken

### REFER

Ensure key people are informed  
For example, Responsible safeguarding lead, CQC, relatives as appropriate,  
service commissioning teams

### SUPPORT

Provide support or feedback for the person identifying the safeguarding concern

With thanks and acknowledgements to West and North Yorkshire and York regional Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures from which this flowchart has been adopted.

<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/Documents/health-care-advice/adult-services/safeguarding/safeguarding-adults-from-abuse/summary-guide-policy-procedures.pdf>