

Haslingfield Choir

Safeguarding Adults Policy

1. Background.

Haslingfield Choir welcomes a wide range of adults of all ages as members and we recognise that our members may fall within the national definition of vulnerable adults.

In general, 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.

The Care Act 2014 defines safeguarding as protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. Safeguarding adults is about the safety and well-being of all people by providing additional measures for those least able to protect themselves from harm or abuse.

Local authorities have specific legal duties to protect those defined as vulnerable adults, working together with many other organisations.

The safeguarding lead for Haslingfield Choir is the chair.

2. Aims.

The aims of adult safeguarding as set out in The Care Act 2014 are to:

- Stop abuse or neglect wherever possible
- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs
 - Safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned
- Raise public awareness so that communities as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect
 - Provide information and support in accessible ways to help people understand the different types of abuse, how to stay safe and what to do to raise a concern about the safety or well-being of an adult
- Address what has caused the abuse or neglect

3. Legal Duties.

Specific statutory safeguarding adult duties apply to an adult who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and;
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Those who meet these criteria are defined as “vulnerable adults.”

There are six key principles that underpin all vulnerable adult safeguarding work :

- Empowerment - People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent. “I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens.”
- Prevention – It is better to take action before harm occurs. “I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to get help”
- Proportionality – The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented. “I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest, and they will only get involved as much as needed.”
- Protection – Support and representation for those in greatest need. “I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want.”
- Partnership – Local solutions through services working with their communities. “I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me.”
- Accountability – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding. “I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they.”

The Care Act 2014 endorses the Making Safeguarding Personal model, which places the individual at the heart of the safeguarding adults process. Making Safeguarding Personal engages the individual in a conversation about how best to respond to their safeguarding in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety. This model underpins the Cambridgeshire County Council’s safeguarding policy.

4. Spotting and identifying signs of abuse and neglect.

Haslingfield Choir will be vigilant about safeguarding adult concerns. This will include

- Knowing about different types of abuse and neglect and their signs

- Knowing who to tell about suspected abuse or neglect
- Supporting adults to make informed decisions when exercising choice and control

There are many forms of abuse and neglect, and instances can be one off or multiple and affect one person or more. The list below is not exhaustive but seeks to illustrate the sort of behaviour that could give rise to a safeguarding concern:

Physical Abuse: including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.

Domestic Violence: including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence.

Sexual Abuse: including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented 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, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal from services or supportive networks.

Financial or Material Abuse: including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

Modern Slavery: encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

Discriminatory Abuse: including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment: because of race, gender and gender identity, age disability, sexual orientation or Religion.

Organisational Abuse: including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

Neglect and acts of omission: including ignoring medical or physical needs, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.

Self Neglect:- this covers a wide range of behaviour, neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

5. Reporting Procedure.

The safeguarding adults lead in Haslingfield Choir is the chair.

Any choir member who suspects that a vulnerable adult may be at risk of abuse or is being abused must report their concern immediately to the chair. People have the right to expect that information shared with a member of staff should be treated as confidential. However, it should be made clear that where the staff member has a reason to be concerned for the welfare of a vulnerable person they must share the information with someone who is in a position to take action or responsibility. This is the chair.

It is not the responsibility of any choir member to decide whether or not abuse has taken place. It is therefore vital that staff raise all cases of suspected or alleged abuse in line with the procedures identified in this policy. It is important to do this, as there may already have been concerns expressed by other agencies and failure to report concerns may put a vulnerable person at risk.

The chair will gather further information as necessary by interviewing the person making the report or the individual concerned directly.

The chair will then devise an appropriate plan of action. The exact nature of the action taken will be determined by the individual circumstances, but it may include the involvement of external authorities, such as Social Services, and the Police.

Choir members will be aware of this policy and familiar with good practice guidelines on the immediate action to be taken following a report of abuse.

All relevant information about a safeguarding vulnerable adults concern and any actions taken should be recorded as simply and clearly as possible by the chair.

If staff see something that concerns them or are given information that gives them cause for concern about a vulnerable person, they should:

- keep calm; this will help the vulnerable person
- make sure that the person is safe
- listen carefully to what is said
- if possible, take note of what is happening around them
- reassure and take care of the person
- get help as soon as possible (in accordance with the 'recording and reporting' procedures)

Whilst every effort will be made to ensure that confidentiality is preserved, this will be governed by what may be an overriding need to protect a person who has been or is at risk of abuse. The needs of the vulnerable person and the potential risk to others requires you to share the information with the chair.

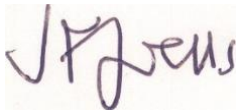
Safeguarding vulnerable adults concerns will be reported by the chair to:

Cambridgeshire County Council: Email:
referral.centre/adults@cambridgeshire.gov.uk Emergency Duty Team – weekends
and bank holidays: Tel: 01733 23472

Approved Date: 16th April 2023

Review date: April 2026

Signed:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J Wells', is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Jonathan Wells

Chair