



## BORDERLANDS SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Version	V8	By: MU, PB	Approved by	23 February 2019
Dated	2 January 2019		Next review on	January 2021

### 1. Introduction:

- 1.1 Borderlands recognise the value and dignity of every human being and believes that everyone has the right to live a life free from abuse, neglect or fear. Borderlands is committed to creating a safe environment for all staff, volunteers and members and visitors.
- 1.2 This policy relates in particular to adults at risk, and conforms to the Bristol City Council Safeguarding Adults Multi-Agency Policy. It applies to all staff, volunteers, trustees and members.

### 2. Aims

- 2.1 To prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adult members of Borderlands who are at risk and children.
- 2.2 To help our staff, volunteers, members and visitors to stay safe.
- 2.3 To help staff to understand examples of abuse (or neglect) of adults at risk or children.
- 2.4 To ensure that staff, volunteers, members and visitors are aware of how to raise concerns about safety and well-being of members and of themselves.
- 2.5 To ensure that Borderlands responds quickly and effectively when abuse is taking place, is suspected or alleged, or where there are concerns.

### 3. Definitions

- 3.1 The Care Act 2014 defines an “adult at risk” as:
  - Someone who has needs for care and support ( whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)

- Someone who is experiencing or is at risk of neglect or abuse
  - Someone who is unable to protect themselves from the risk of or experience of abuse or neglect.
- 3.2 Our members do not automatically fall into the category of Adults who are at risk, but we should be sensitive to their situation and past experiences. Many of our members have passed through traumatic experiences which can leave them in a vulnerable position.
- 3.3 A “child” is anyone under the age of 18.
- 3.4 While 16-17 year olds are still considered children, with permission of parents/guardians, they are permitted certain adult rights (eg marriage, entry into armed forces). Borderlands accepts 16-17 year-olds to activities such as English classes with the written permission of their carer or social worker.
- 3.5 Definition of “abuse”
- 3.5.1 Abuse may be a single act, or repeated acts, by one or more persons, which violates someone’s rights and involves a risk of significant harm.
- 3.5.2 It may be an act or a failure to act, or may occur when a person is persuaded to enter into a transaction to which he or she has not consented or to which he or she cannot consent. It can take place in any kind of relationship.
- 3.5.3 Examples of types of abuse are given in Appendix 1.
- 3.5.4 Examples of types of abuse of children are listed in Appendix 2.

#### **4. Roles and responsibilities**

- 4.1 Safeguarding of adults at risk and children is the responsibility of everyone.
- 4.2 Staff and volunteers should be particularly vigilant when adults at risk or children are on Borderlands’ premises or at Borderlands’ events.
- 4.3 Mentors should be particularly vigilant when visiting homes where adults at risk or children are present.
- 4.4 Management must ensure that all members, staff and volunteers are able to access appropriate information about how to get help when they are in danger of abuse and violence.

- 4.5 Management and Safeguarding Officers must take all reports, allegations or concerns about abuse seriously.
- 4.6 The designated Safeguarding Officers are Mary Hopper (01275 830788) or Margaret Ulloa (normally present during Drop-in, or on 07533 880 523). In their absence urgent concerns should be taken to the relevant Project Manager. Failing this they should be taken to the Director.

## **5 Implementation**

- 5.1 See Borderlands Safeguarding Procedures
- 5.3 See Borderlands Safeguarding Training

## **6. Other references**

- 5.1 [Bristol City Council Safeguarding Adults Multi-Agency Policy](#)
- 5.2 [Children Act 2004](#)
- 5.3 [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006](#)
- 5.4 [Care Act 2014](#)

### **Appendix 1 – Examples of types of abuse**

- Physical: any form of physical assault, including hitting, slapping, pushing, biting, inappropriate restraint or physical sanctions.
- Domestic abuse (including forced marriage): Including psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse between adults who are family members, or who are or have been intimate partners, regardless of gender or sexuality. This also includes ‘honour’ based violence.
- Human trafficking: including slavery, forced labour or domestic servitude.
- Sexual: including rape. Sexual assault, sexual activity without consent, inappropriate touching, sexual harassment, sexual abuse through the media, indecent exposure, subjection to pornography.
- Female genital mutilation.
- Psychological and emotional: including verbal abuse, threat of harm or abandonment, humiliation, intimidation, coercion, cyber bullying, denial of rights.

- Financial: theft, fraud, coercion in financial affairs, misappropriation of property or benefits.
- Discrimination: harassment, swearing, name calling, offensive remarks about race, gender, disability, sexual orientation or religion. Treating someone unfavourably for any of these reasons.
- Neglect: Ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs.
- Institutional: neglect or poor practice as a result of the policies, procedures or management of the organisation.
- Spiritual Abuse: accusations of witchcraft and black magic, etc.

## **Appendix 2 – Examples of types of abuse of children**

1 All children from 0-18 are by definition vulnerable, i.e. likely to be unable to defend themselves from abuse and exploitation by an adult. It is also possible that an older child is exploiting a younger child.

2 Borderlands does not work with children (except 16+ with permission from a Social Worker or Carer). However, where there is a disclosure or concern about a child, the appropriate action needs to be taken.

### **3.1 Types of abuse of children**

Abuse and neglect are forms of maltreatment. A person may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children and young people may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by a stranger.

### **3.2 Physical abuse**

3.2.1 Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.

3.2.2 Physical harm may also be caused when a parent fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

### **3.3 Emotional abuse**

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent effects on the child's emotional development and may involve:

3.3.1 Conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person

3.3.2 Imposing age or developmentally inappropriate expectations on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction

3.3.3 Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another

- 3.3.4 Serious bullying, causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger.
- 3.3.5 Exploiting and corrupting children.
- 3.3.6 Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

### **3.4 Sexual abuse**

- 3.4.1 Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including penetrative (e.g. rape, buggery or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts.
- 3.4.2 Sexual abuse includes abuse of children through sexual exploitation.
- 3.4.3 Penetrative sex where one of the partners is under the age of 16 is illegal, although prosecution of similar age, consenting partners is not usual. However, where a child is under the age of 13 it is classified as rape under Section 5 Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- 3.4.4 Sexual abuse includes non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of pornographic materials, watching sexual activities or encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

### **3.5 Neglect**

- 3.5.1 Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and / or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.
- 3.5.2 Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent failing to:
- 3.5.3 Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment)
- 3.5.4 Failure to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- 3.5.5 Failure to ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers)
- 3.5.6 Failure to ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.
- 3.5.7 It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

### **3.6 Domestic (Family) Violence**

Domestic or Family Violence (Physical, emotional or sexual) adversely affects children who witness it.

### **3.7 Bullying**

Bullying is forcing a child to behave in a particular way, mocking or exploiting them. It can be physical (see physical abuse) or emotional (see emotional abuse).

### **3.8 Cyberbullying includes**

- 3.8.1 sending threatening or abusive text messages
- 3.8.2 creating and sharing embarrassing images or videos
- 3.8.3 'trolling' - the sending of menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games
- 3.8.4 excluding children from online games, activities or friendship groups
- 3.8.5 setting up hate sites or groups about a particular child
- 3.8.6 encouraging young people to self-harm
- 3.8.7 voting for or against someone in an abusive poll
- 3.8.8 creating fake accounts, hijacking or stealing online identities to embarrass a young person or cause trouble using their name
- 3.8.9 sending explicit messages, also known as sexting

### 3.9 **Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

- 3.9.1 Child Sexual Exploitation involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people receive something (for example food, drugs, alcohol, gifts or in some cases simply affection) as a result of engaging in sexual activities.
- 3.9.2 Sexual exploitation can take many different forms from the seemingly 'consensual' relationship to serious organized crime involving gangs and groups.
- 3.9.3 Exploitation is marked out by an imbalance of power in the relationship and involves varying degrees of coercion, intimidation and sexual bullying including cyberbullying and grooming.
- 3.9.4 It is important to recognize that some young people who are being sexually exploited do not show any external signs of this abuse and may not recognize it as abuse. Young people who go missing can be at increased risk of sexual exploitation and so procedures are in place to ensure appropriate response to children and young people who go missing, particularly on repeat occasions.

### 3.10 **Child Trafficking**

Child trafficking is the recruitment and movement of children for the purpose of exploitation; it is a form of child abuse. Children may be trafficked within the Country, or from abroad. It overlaps with Sexual Exploitation and Private Fostering. Children may be trafficked for:

- 3.10.1 Sexual exploitation
- 3.10.2 Labour exploitation
- 3.10.3 Domestic servitude
- 3.10.4 Cannabis cultivation
- 3.10.5 Criminal activity
- 3.10.6 Benefit fraud
- 3.10.7 Forced marriage
- 3.10.8 Moving drugs.

### 3.11 **Female genital mutilation (FGM)**

- 3.11.1 Female genital mutilation includes procedures that intentionally alter or injure the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.
- 3.11.2 It is a surprisingly common form of abuse in the UK.
- 3.11.3 FGM is carried out on children between the ages of 0–18, depending on the community in which they live. It is extremely harmful and has short and long term effects on physical and psychological health.

### 3.12 **Ritualistic Abuse**

- 3.12.1 Some faiths believe that spirits and demons can possess people (including children).
- 3.12.2 What should never be condoned is the use of any physical violence to get rid of the possessing spirit. This is physical abuse and people can be prosecuted even if it was their intention to help the child.

## 4 **Safeguarding Children and Young People Vulnerable to Violent Extremism (PREVENT Duty)**

- 4.1 Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation should be seen as part of wider safeguarding duties.
- 4.2 Radicalisation refers to the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism.
- 4.3 There is no single way of identifying an individual who is likely to be susceptible to an extremist ideology.
- 4.4 As with managing other safeguarding risks, staff and volunteers should be alert to changes in children's behaviour that could indicate that they are in need of protection.