



JustUs Adult Safeguarding Policy

Aims and Objectives:

JustUs is committed to ensuring that adults at risk of harm who use its services are not abused and that working practices minimise the risk of such abuse. The Trustees and all JustUs personnel including volunteers have a duty to identify abuse and report it in line with the Care Act 2014. It is recognised that many of the clients using JustUs services may be at risk of abuse and / or harm.

If we are supporting someone to make choices about their own safety, we need to understand 'what matters' to them and what outcomes they want to achieve from any actions that are taken to help them to protect themselves.

The concept of Making Safeguarding Personal means engaging the person in a conversation about how best to respond to their situation in a way that enhances their involvement, choice, and control, as well as improving their quality of life, well-being, and safety. JustUs should work to support adults to achieve the outcomes they want for themselves. The adult's views, wishes, feelings and beliefs must be considered when decisions are made about how to support them to be safe.

Definition:

Adult safeguarding is working with adults with care and support needs to keep them safe from abuse or neglect. It is an important part of what many public services do, and a key responsibility of local authorities.

All organisations have a duty to ensure that the welfare of all adults is ensured. As part of this they need to understand when to implement their safeguarding adults reporting procedures.

Safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of these 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.

All adults accessing support from JustUs shall be treated as a potential adult at risk.

Abuse can include:

- Physical
- psychological or emotional
- financial or material
- sexual
- organisational or institutional
- discriminatory
- domestic abuse including coercion
- neglect or act of omissions
- self-neglect
- modern slavery
- honour based abuse
- female genital mutilation
- cuckooing (the taking over of someone's home to use it for illegal purposes)
- county lines drug trafficking

Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and can be perpetrated by anyone.

Responsibilities of JustUs Personnel and Trustees:

To ensure all personnel are aware of the need to pro-actively safeguard adults at risk from harm.

To notify the appropriate agencies if abuse is identified or suspected and seek advice where necessary.

To raise suspected radicalisation of an adult at risk as a safeguarding issue.

To support and where possible secure the safety of individuals and ensure that all referrals to services have full information in relation to identified risk and care and support needs on a need-to-know basis.

To check all caseworkers through the National Disclosure and Barring Service.

Although it is unlikely that trustees will encounter clients, to ensure all trustees have signed the Charity Commission's Trustee Eligibility Declaration Form which outlines that they do not have any unspent convictions or are on the sex offenders register.

To be familiar with the adult safeguarding policy.

To take appropriate action in line with this policy.

To declare any existing or subsequent convictions.

Support for those who report abuse:

All those making a complaint or allegation or expressing concern, whether they are group members or members of the public should be reassured that:

- They will be taken seriously, and;
- Their comments will usually be treated confidentially, but their concerns may be shared with the appropriate authorities if they or others are at significant risk.

Adults who may be at risk have the right:

To be made aware of this policy.

To have alleged incidents recognised and taken seriously.

To receive fair and respectful treatment throughout.

To be involved in any process as appropriate.

To receive information about the outcome.

JustUs Safeguarding Lead: Samantha Price (Trustee)

Contact email: info@justus.org.uk

Contact phone: 07950 479351

Local Safeguarding Board: The Safeguarding Adults Team

Bedford Borough Council

Borough Hall

138 Cauldwell Street

Bedford MK42 9AP

Contact email: adult.protection@bedford.gov.uk

Contact phone: 01234 276222.

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Adopted: June 2015

Last Reviewed: January 2024

Next Review date: January 2025