

# **ADULTS SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

## **1. Definition and legal requirements**

An adult is any person who has reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. '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, whilst 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.

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 or complex needs. This could be an adult who is usually able to protect themselves from harm but maybe unable to do so because of an accident, age, disability, frailty, domestic abuse, financial difficulty, seeking asylum, addiction, or illness.

Rochdale Training staff will act with care to ensure that all adults are protected from harm, on the same terms as children. All concerns raised regarding an adults welfare will be dealt with on an individual basis, meaning the approach taken will be person led and outcome focussed.

The key laws and statutory guidance documents are:

- Care Act 2014
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Protection of Freedoms Act 2012

Rochdale adheres to following the six key principles which underpin The Care Act 2014:

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

## **2. Safeguarding**

Safeguarding Adults is a term which is broader than 'adult protection' and relates to the action taken to promote the welfare of adults and protect them from **harm**. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

## **Safeguarding adults at risk.**

Any person has committed an offence in law if they have:

Harmed an adult through their actions or inaction (relevant conduct). This means a person has done something which may lead to harm or has failed to take action to prevent harm.

Staff will receive training on recognising the signs and indicators of abuse, neglect and radicalisation. Staff will be actively vigilant and if they form a concern about the safety of a learner, report to the Safeguarding Officer without delay (see flowchart 1 – referral of concerns).

If you are aware of an adult at risk, being in danger of abuse or who is being abused, you must act by reporting this to a Safeguarding Officer immediately. You cannot tell an adult that everything will be kept quiet to protect them or person connected to them otherwise the abuse or risk of abuse may continue.

Abuse should be considered in a wider context than just physical and can take numerous forms.

- **Sexual abuse**
- **Physical abuse**
- **Psychological abuse**
- **Domestic abuse**
- **Discriminatory abuse**
- **Financial abuse**
- **Self-neglect**
- **Acts of omission**
- **Organisational**
- **Modern Slavery**

In line with Government Legislation Rochdale Training aims to reduce the risk of harm to vulnerable adults from abuse, exploitation, or radicalisation. Rochdale Training will not tolerate the abuse of adults in any of its forms and is committed to prevention, detection, and reporting where appropriate.

Staff working with adults with at risk must always act in their best interests and ensure they take all reasonable steps to prevent harm occurring. Having safeguards in place within an organisation not only protects and promotes the welfare of adults but also it enhances the confidence of staff, volunteers, parents/carers and the general public.

These safeguards should include procedures for dealing with issues or concerns of abuse and safeguarding officers who liaise with the Local Adult Safeguarding Board for Rochdale and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) for Greater Manchester.

Rochdale Training will ensure that safe and effective working practices are in place with robust referral pathways and reporting mechanisms both internally and externally.

## **Safeguarding Adults in General**

**Irrespective of the above constraints on regulated activity, adults shall not receive or come to harm or be placed at risk of harm by any act of neglect, failure to act, inadequate staff training or management or for another reason within our control.**

This policy is a statement of intent that demonstrates a commitment to safeguard adults involved in vocational or classroom learning or coming into contact with Rochdale Training in any other capacity, from harm.

To understand the detailed procedures and other aspects behind this policy please refer to the **separate** document: **Rochdale Training – Adult Safeguarding Procedure.**