**Safeguarding Policy Statement**

Wellbeing Challenge CIC is committed to ensuring that all members and users are safeguarded while using its service and facilities.

**Scope of the Policy**

The aim of this policy is to ensure both:

* The safety of adults at risk and children by outlining clear procedures for handling safeguarding issues
* That all members, volunteers and staff within Wellbeing Challenge CIC are clear about their safeguarding responsibilities.

**Definitions**

An adult at risk is a person:

* Aged 18 or over
* Has needs for care or support (whether or not those needs are met)
* Is experiencing, or is at risk of abuse or neglect
* As a result of these needs is unable to protect him or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it

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

A child is defined as a person under the age of 18. Exceptions to this are: Children who are placed in local authority care are usually classed as children until aged 21, and those with special needs are regarded as children while aged under 25.

What is abuse?

Abuse is a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by any other person or persons. It can take a variety of forms.

Children:

* Physical Abuse
* Sexual Abuse
* Emotional Abuse
* Neglect

Adults at Risk:

Although the forms of abuse are the same for adults at risk the definitions may alter slightly, with additional forms of abuse which as relevant to adults.

* Physical Abuse
* Sexual Abuse
* Psychological/ Emotional Abuse
* Financial or material abuse
* Neglect or Acts of Omission
* Discriminatory Abuse
* Institutional / Organisational Abuse
* Domestic Abuse (including Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation)
* Modern Slavery
* Self -Neglect

**Implementing this policy**

Wellbeing Challenge CIC will:

* Ensure that all relevant staff, trustees and volunteers have an appropriate Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check where required.
* Ensure that all staff, trustees and volunteers are aware of these safeguarding procedures
* Have a named Safeguarding lead who understands his/her responsibility to refer any safeguarding concerns to the appropriate statutory agency (i.e. Police, Social Services).
* Note each Local Authority has a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) who should be contacted with safeguarding issues relating to allegations against staff or volunteers.
* Ensure that any suspicions and allegations of abuse will be taken seriously and responded to quickly and appropriately

**What to do if you are concerned?**

If you have concerns about a child or adult at risk don’t keep the information to yourself.

Report any concerns to the Safeguarding Lead (Nick Roberts)

If you have a general concern report this to the local children’s or adult’s safeguarding teams who will record your concerns and advise on next steps. Do not discuss your concerns with anyone outside these teams and make a note of the date, time and person to whom you reported your concerns.

**What happens if someone discloses something or makes an allegation**

* Remain calm, don’t show any strong reactions such as shock and disgust.
* Reassure the person that they are doing the right thing by telling you, and it is not their fault.
* Take the allegation seriously. Do not promise confidentiality, explain that you will have to share this information, but only to people who need to know such as the safeguarding lead. Accept what is said without comment or judgement.
* Take time to listen carefully to what is being said. Do not ask leading questions – use words such as what, why, who, when and how. This will allow them to share their story freely.
* Do not ask too many questions or press for more details. Do not interrupt them – allow them to share whatever is important to them.
* It is crucial that you record what was said/ what you saw, where it was said/ where you saw it and who was there, including their relationship to you, any questions you have asked and their views and wishes. In the case of a vulnerable adult also record what they want to be done. Do this as soon as you can so that none of the detail is lost – make sure you use the individual’s own words as much as possible – do not add any interpretations, reactions, evaluations or conclusions.
* This information should be kept confidential and passed onto your safeguarding lead as soon as possible. Do not keep a copy for yourself.

**Named Safeguarding Lead Person**

The details of the named contact for Wellbeing Challenge CIC is: Nick Roberts **07377150905** or **07837525634** out of hours emergency contact number

**Local Contacts (South Tyneside)**

Children and young people: The Integrated Safeguarding Intervention Team Phone **0191 424 5010** (office hours) or **0191 456 2093** (out of office hours).

Adults: The Let’s Talk Team - Phone **0191 424 6000** (office hours) or **0191 456 2093** (out of office hours).

In an emergency contact Police 999