

Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures

Version History

Version	Date Approved	Approved by	Brief Description of Changes
2024/1		Board of Trustees	Planned review
Reviewed	September 25	Board of Management	Annual review

Policy Owner

Head of Children and Young People and Deputy CEO

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that everyone working for YMCA East Surrey takes appropriate and proactive responsibility to safeguard adults at risk of harm in accordance with local and national guidelines and procedures.

Our commitment includes promoting organisation-wide awareness and understanding of adult safeguarding, undertaking best practice in the safe recruitment of employees and volunteers, and carrying out our legal and moral duties to respond to related concerns, disclosures, or allegations appropriately.

YMCA East Surrey is fully committed to safeguarding the welfare of adults and achieve this through a multi-disciplinary approach with consultation and the sharing of information. This policy and procedural guidance should be used in conjunction with Local Safeguarding Adults Board procedures and guidance.

This policy applies to those adults we work with who have care needs and who may be at risk of abuse or neglect. It also applies to all trustees, staff, students and volunteers working for YMCA East Surrey. Any allegation or concern about abuse must be acted upon.

YMCA East Surrey is committed to the Making Safeguarding Personal approach which means adult safeguarding work that

- is person-led
- is outcome-focused
- engages the person and enhances involvement, choice and control
- improves quality of life, wellbeing and safety

All work undertaken by YMCA East Surrey will be subject to continuous risk assessment and comply with YMCA East Surrey's Risk Policy and Procedures.

The responsibility to report any concerns rests with the individual regardless of their place within the organisation, any concern that an adult with care needs is at risk of abuse must be discussed with the line manager without delay and further action taken as necessary. Safeguarding Adults Concerns are recorded the MyConcern Safeguarding system. Serious adult safeguarding concerns are immediately raised with a Senior DSL – see flowchart on page 10.

Every effort will be made to ensure that trustees, staff, students and volunteers recruited to work for YMCA East Surrey are suitable to do so. Those who are responsible for appointing staff will be trained in safe recruitment practices. All references will be robustly scrutinized, and other checks sought at the appropriate level e.g. DBS.

YMCA East Surrey is committed to training all staff, students and volunteers in this policy and procedure and code of behaviour, as part of the induction process. It requires all those working with adults with care needs to address safeguarding within the induction programme, and to undertake Safeguarding Adults Training within their probationary period. In addition, they will be required to undertake either refresher training or more advanced training (as appropriate) at least every two years.

Definitions

This Safeguarding Adults policy relates to adults who:

- ▶ Have a need for care and support by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness
- ▶ Are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing neglect or abuse
- ▶ As a result of care needs are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect

An adult with care and support needs may be:

- ▶ An older person
- ▶ A person with physical disability, a learning difficulty or sensory impairment
- ▶ Someone with mental health needs, including dementia or personality disorder
- ▶ A person with long-term health conditions
- ▶ Someone who misuses substances to alcohol to the extent that it affects their ability to manage day-to-day living

The Care Act 2014 also includes people who are victims of sexual exploitation, domestic abuse and modern slavery. However, just because an individual has any of these, does not make them an "Adult at Risk". This is defined by their need for care and support.

People with care and support needs are not inherently vulnerable, but they may come to be at risk of abuse or neglect at any point due to their circumstances, usually arising from or related to physical or mental impairment or illness.

If in doubt, always discuss this with your line manager and make any decisions jointly and where necessary in consultation with others

This policy applies to all staff including senior managers and the board of trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of YMCA East Surrey. Please note, all references to "members of staff" should be interpreted as meaning all staff, whether they are in a paid or unpaid capacity.

Relevant Legislation or Governance Requirements

- ▶ Care Act 2014
- ▶ Human Rights Act 1998
- ▶ Sexual Offences Act 2003
- ▶ Equality Act 2010
- ▶ Domestic Violence Crime and Victims Act 2004
- ▶ Mental Capacity Act 2005

- ▶ Safeguarding Adults - National Framework of Standards 2005
- ▶ Mental Health Act 2007
- ▶ Information Sharing Guidance for Safeguarding Practitioners 2018
- ▶ Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014
- ▶ Serious Crime Act 2015
- ▶ Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015

National guidance

- ▶ Care & Support Statutory Guidance, Care Act 2014
- ▶ Statement of government policy on Adult Safeguarding (Department of Health, 2011)
- ▶ Safeguarding adults at risk of harm: A legal guide for staff (Social Care Institute for Excellence, 2011)

YMCA East Surrey will also work closely with, and adhere to the guidelines issued by the relevant Local Safeguarding Adults Board in areas where YMCA East Surrey delivers services (currently Surrey and West Sussex) details of which can be found here: <https://www.surreysab.org.uk/> and <https://www.westsussexsab.org.uk/>

Related Policies and Procedures

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following related policies and procedures:

- ▶ Behaviour management
- ▶ Bullying and Harassment
- ▶ Code of conduct
- ▶ Complaints
- ▶ Confidentiality
- ▶ Data Protection Policy
- ▶ Equality and diversity
- ▶ E-safety policy
- ▶ Health and safety
- ▶ Inclusion
- ▶ Information sharing and confidentiality policy
- ▶ Lone working policy
- ▶ No smoking, drugs and alcohol
- ▶ Personal and intimate care
- ▶ Recruitment and selection
- ▶ Safeguarding children policy
- ▶ Staff disciplinary policy
- ▶ Staff handbook
- ▶ Whistleblowing

In addition to the above, there are a number of other policies that contribute towards safeguarding, which can be found in the relevant folders here: [Policies, Procedures and Handbooks](#)

Policy Requirements

Adults with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse from a wide range of people including relatives and family members, professional staff, paid care workers, volunteers, other service users, neighbours, friends and associates. Some people deliberately exploit

strangers that they view as less likely to recognise the exploitation or less likely to seek help.

Where might abuse take place?

- ▶ A person's home
- ▶ A relative or friend's home
- ▶ A day centre or support service
- ▶ Within a supported living scheme
- ▶ Within an adult placement
- ▶ An educational establishment
- ▶ A hospital
- ▶ A care home
- ▶ In employment
- ▶ Whilst volunteering
- ▶ Community setting

YMCA East Surrey will also work closely with, and adhere to the guidelines issued by, the relevant Local Safeguarding Adults Boards in areas where YMCA East Surrey delivers services (currently Surrey and West Sussex).

Indicators of abuse

There are a variety of ways that somebody in the organisation may become aware of the actual or likely occurrence of abuse of an adult at risk.

These include:

- ▶ An adult might tell them
- ▶ Someone else might report that an adult has told them or that they strongly believe that an adult has been or is being abused
- ▶ An adult might show some signs of physical injury for which there appears to be no satisfactory explanation
- ▶ An adult's behaviour may indicate to them that it is likely that she or he is being abused
- ▶ Something in the behaviour of one of the workers, or in the way that a worker relates to an adult at risk, alerts them or makes them feel uncomfortable in some way
- ▶ Observing one adult at risk abusing another

Six principles of Safeguarding

The Board is committed to delivering Making Safeguarding Personal by applying the principles of adult safeguarding embedded within the Care Act:

Empowerment

We ask people what outcomes they want as a result of the safeguarding adults process and these directly inform what happens. This means all staff and professionals from all organisations will routinely ask people about outcomes at the point of concern and record this information. This is recorded and analysed so that the safeguarding adults board can see the extent of partner engagement in Making Safeguarding Personal and mobilise advice and support where this is needed.

Protection

We help and support people to report abuse. We support people to be involved in the safeguarding adults process to the extent to which the adult wants.

Prevention

We can effectively identify and appropriately respond to signs of abuse and suspected criminal offences and act before harm occurs. We make everyone aware, through provision of appropriate training and guidance, of how to recognise signs and take any appropriate action to prevent abuse occurring.

Proportionality

We work in the best interests of the adult and undertake the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk that is presented.

Partnership

We will work together to place the welfare of individuals above organisational boundaries. We have effective local information-sharing and multiagency partnership arrangements in place and staff understand these.

Accountability

The roles of the agencies are clear, together with the lines of accountability. Staff understand what is expected of them and others. Agencies recognise their responsibilities to each other, act upon them and accept collective responsibility for safeguarding arrangements.

Responding to disclosure of abuse

Staff and volunteers should always take seriously any disclosure concerning an allegation of abuse.

They should listen carefully and not interrupt or stop someone telling them their story. They should not interrogate the details but should be empathetic and reassuring. The service user should be enabled to remain empowered and in control and should be asked what action they would like taken (presuming they do not lack mental capacity). The member of staff must inform the service user that they have a duty to report and in turn make a report to their Line Manager verbally and then create a Concern using MyConcern Safeguarding software.

The person should be made aware of the possibility that medical or other forensic evidence may be required. They should also be informed of any actions that may need to be taken including steps to protect and support them. Information should be recorded as soon as possible on MyConcern Safeguarding software and within 24 hours.

Staff should not contact the alleged abuser or discuss the allegations with them, nor should they pass the information to anyone other than those with a legitimate need to know, such as their Line Manager or member of the Heads of Service group.

In some circumstances a Senior Manager, having heard details of the allegations and having discussed the matter with their Head of Service may determine that the allegations although logged will not be further investigated and after triaging they will close the Concern on MyConcern. This may be because the allegation reiterates an ongoing concern expressed by the service user already previously investigated or it may be seen as a symptom of their current mental health, which has already been addressed within the current risk assessment management plan.

Remember: It is important that everyone in the organisation is aware that the person who first encounters a case of alleged or suspected abuse is not responsible for deciding whether abuse has occurred, this decision is the responsibility of others.

Roles and Responsibilities

Trustees

- ▶ Accountable for YMCA East Surrey and therefore all safeguarding within the organisation
- ▶ Ensure appropriate policies and procedures are in place
- ▶ Can identify and handle concerns in an open manner
- ▶ Ensure there are clear systems for reporting concerns to relevant organisations e.g. Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Information and Commissioners Office (ICO) or Adult Social Care
- ▶ Identifies risks and how to mitigate these in a risk register
- ▶ Is quick to respond to concerns
- ▶ Receive regular reports on safeguarding
- ▶ Receive annual safeguarding training and updates.

Safeguarding Designated Trustee

- ▶ Accountable to the Board of Trustees for the development of safeguarding within the organisation
- ▶ Meets quarterly with the Chief Executive (Head of Safeguarding)
- ▶ Acts as independent resource that can offer advice, on request, to management that are dealing with and reporting safeguarding incidents
- ▶ Offers challenge to ensure the organisation is always doing all it can to safeguard the service users, staff etc.
- ▶ Provides reports to Trustees at each Trustee Board meeting using reports from MyConcern
- ▶ Regularly receives and collates information in respect of safeguarding activity to inform a corporate assessment of risk
- ▶ Reviews the Safeguarding Adults policy and procedure, with the support of Heads of Services
- ▶ Is informed of any significant safeguarding incident within the organisation

Chief Executive

- ▶ Accountable to the Trustees for safeguarding within the organisation
- ▶ Meets quarterly with the Safeguarding Designated Trustee and Senior DSL
- ▶ Ensures a clear framework for the management accountability for safeguarding
- ▶ Accountable for safeguarding in all projects and services within the various service lines
- ▶ Commissions specific time limited work to address safeguarding issues
- ▶ Together with HR ensure that safe recruitment practices are fully employed & that staff appointed have the necessary skills and experience in safeguarding appropriate to their role
- ▶ Ensures that a range of appropriate safeguarding training and budgets are available to meet the needs of the workforce
- ▶ Reviews the quality and content of YMCA East Surrey's Safeguarding training to meet the needs of the organisation and to ensure any new learning can be fully integrated into working practices

Heads of Services – Senior DSLs

- ▶ Line management responsibility for the safe delivery, quality and effectiveness of services
- ▶ Ensures that staff and volunteers receive relevant safeguarding training and support
- ▶ Ensures that effective supervision supports safeguarding at all levels within the department

- ▶ Ensures that there is a clear framework for risk assessments and escalation of concerns as required
- ▶ Ensure correct use of MyConcern Safeguarding software and triage and act on Concerns as appropriate
- ▶ Makes adult protection referrals to Adult Social Care as necessary

Senior Managers

- ▶ Accountable to the Heads of Services for safeguarding in projects for their services
- ▶ Together with the HR Department ensure safe recruitment practices are fully employed in the recruitment of both staff and volunteers and that they have the necessary skills and experience in safeguarding, appropriate to the role
- ▶ Line management responsibility for the safe delivery, quality and effectiveness for the provisions of services
- ▶ Triage safeguarding Concerns on MyConcern and ensuring swift follow-up, referral, action and review of lessons learnt as appropriate
- ▶ Ensure that safeguarding practice is regularly discussed in supervision to identify any training needs and is included within the staff appraisal process
- ▶ Ensure all members of staff within their service receive the level of safeguarding training appropriate to their role and responsibilities
- ▶ Ensure effective supervision supports safeguarding in their service
- ▶ Reports on the practice and management of safeguarding in their region and responds to safeguarding audits, as required
- ▶ Offer advice and support to staff on safeguarding issues
- ▶ Ensure the development of a safeguarding culture within the context of their services
- ▶ Undertake management reviews when there are concerns about quality and effectiveness in relation to safeguarding and take corrective action where necessary
- ▶ Responsibility to establish and maintain effective relationships with other agencies locally in relation to safeguarding and to challenge when appropriate
- ▶ Ensure that safeguarding is integral to all YMCA East Surrey processes for the assessment, analysis, planning and reviewing of outcomes, in our work with service users
- ▶ Ensure that supervision sessions record reflective practice, and any decisions made are transferred to the case file – all records are signed and dated
- ▶ Make referrals to Adults Social Care, as necessary

Designated Safeguarding Leads

- ▶ To offer consultation and advice locally, to staff together with appropriate managers, on safeguarding issues

Front line members of staff

- ▶ Accountable to their project or service manager for safeguarding within their work
- ▶ Responsibility for the safe delivery, quality and effectiveness of the services they provide
- ▶ Are alert to safeguarding issues in all aspects of their work
- ▶ Keep accurate and timely records on MyConcern which are correctly completed and dated and comply with YMCA East Surrey's procedures
- ▶ Undertake safeguarding training as required.

Designated Safeguarding Leads Profile

YMCA East Surrey will identify individuals with the requisite experience to act as the named Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL).

The named person will be required to offer consultation and advice on safeguarding matters to other staff members.

The DSLs must have:

- ▶ Significant experience of working with protection issues
- ▶ A thorough and current knowledge of safeguarding guidance and legislation
- ▶ Undertaken up to date safeguarding training to the appropriate level
- ▶ A sound understanding of their Local Safeguarding Adults' Board's Procedures
- ▶ A comprehensive knowledge of local networks
- ▶ The confidence and ability to use sound professional judgement.

It is for the DSL to work together with the project manager to make any decisions in respect of the case and to ensure that both the consultation and any decisions have been properly recorded.

YMCA East Surrey's Senior DSLs:

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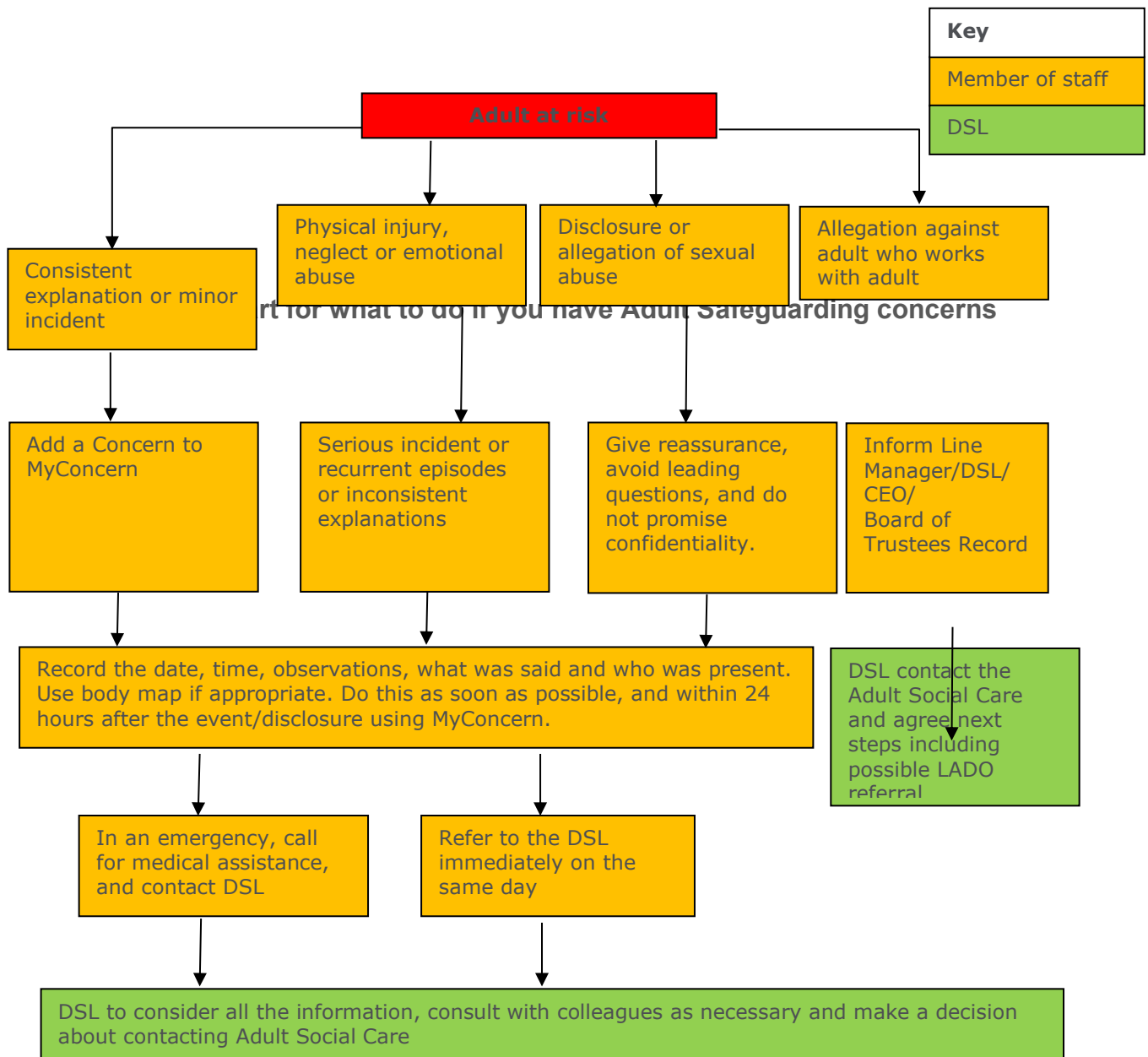
E: Lee.Fabry@ymcaeastsurrey.org.uk

Stuart Kingsley | Deputy Head of Children and Young People

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07442 011483

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If there is an adult safeguarding concern, it should be referred to Surrey/West Sussex County Council's Adult Social Care Services via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). During office hours (9am to 5pm) contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) by phone or email as follows:

	Surrey	West Sussex
Tel:	0300 200 1005	033 022 28400
Email	ascmash@surreycc.gov.uk	
Online	Online form	online form

Out of hours:

- Call the Adult Social Care Emergency Duty Team on: 01483 517898 (Surrey)
033 022 27007 (West Sussex)

In an emergency: Dial 999 for the emergency services

Implementation and review

Review and monitor:	Head of Children and Young People, and Deputy CEO
Approve:	Governance and Risk Committee
Endorse:	Board

This policy will be reviewed every two years, or sooner if required, for example if there is a change in legislation.

Safeguarding Adults Procedures

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1. Purpose of procedure

The purpose of this procedure is to ensure a speedy and effective response for dealing with adult safeguarding concerns. Adherence to these procedures is mandatory for all

YMCA East Surrey staff and volunteers. All new staff to YMCA East Surrey will be made aware of this policy and procedures through the induction process.

This procedure applies to all staff, including senior managers and the Board of Trustees, paid staff, volunteers and sessional workers, agency staff, students or anyone working on behalf of YMCA East Surrey. Please note, all references to "members of staff" should be interpreted as meaning all staff, whether they are in a paid or unpaid capacity.

Whenever anyone has concern that an adult may be at risk of abuse they should follow YMCA East Surrey's Safeguarding Procedures, unless they have been superseded by those of the Local Safeguarding Adults Boards.

YMCA East Surrey is committed to training all staff, students and volunteers in this policy and procedure and code of behaviour, as part of the induction process. It requires all those working with adults with care needs to address safeguarding within the induction programme, and to undertake Safeguarding Adults Training within their probationary period. In addition, they will be required to undertake either refresher training or more advanced training (as appropriate) at least every two years.

2. Six principles of Adult Safeguarding

The Board is committed to delivering Making Safeguarding Personal by applying the principles of adult safeguarding embedded within the Care Act:

Empowerment

We ask people what outcomes they want as a result of the safeguarding adults process and these directly inform what happens. This means all staff and professionals from all organisations will routinely ask people about outcomes at the point of concern and record this information. This is recorded and analysed so that the safeguarding adults board can see the extent of partner engagement in Making Safeguarding Personal and mobilise advice and support where this is needed.

Protection

We help and support people to report abuse. We support people to be involved in the safeguarding adults process to the extent to which the adult wants.

Prevention

We can effectively identify and appropriately respond to signs of abuse and suspected criminal offences and take action before harm occurs. We make everyone aware, through provision of appropriate training and guidance, of how to recognise signs and take any appropriate action to prevent abuse occurring.

Proportionality

We work in the best interests of the adult and undertake the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk that is presented.

Partnership

We will work together to place the welfare of individuals above organisational boundaries. We have effective local information-sharing and multiagency partnership arrangements in place and staff understand these.

Accountability

The roles of the agencies are clear, together with the lines of accountability. Staff understand what is expected of them and others. Agencies recognise their responsibilities to each other, act upon them and accept collective responsibility for safeguarding arrangements.

3. Definition of Abuse

Abuse is described as a violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons

Abuse can occur in any relationship, context or environment irrespective of whether the adult with care needs lives in his or her own home, with their family or on their own, in residential care, shared or supported housing. Those who perpetrate abuse on others are often well known to their victims. Abuse occurs where there is an imbalance of power, and that power is misused. The seriousness of abuse varies and can range from behaviour that is violent and criminal to passive abuse, which is neglectful, unintentional and less deliberately exploitative in character.

Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological, it may be an act of neglect or an omission to act, or it may occur when a person is persuaded to enter a financial or sexual transaction to which he or she has not consented or cannot consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and may result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it.

The Care Act 2014 describes ten types of abuse as follows:

Discriminatory abuse

This includes some forms of harassment, slurs or similar unfair treatment relating to race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, or religion.

Financial or material abuse:

Including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

Neglect and acts of omission:

This may involve ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.

Organisational abuse

Neglect and poor professional practice may in some circumstances constitute abuse. This may take the form of isolated incidents of poor practice or unsatisfactory professional practice at one end of the spectrum, through to pervasive ill treatment or gross misconduct at the other.

Physical abuse:

This can include being assaulted, hit, slapped, pushed, restrained, being denied food or water, or not being helped to go to the bathroom needed. It can also include misuse of medication.

Psychological and emotional abuse:

Threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.

Self-Neglect

Some adults may be at risk from their own self neglect. This is a serious issue which must be addressed; however, arrangements for responding to Self-Neglect differ across local areas. Please check Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) procedures to understand the required response in your area. Should the LSAB

website have no information on what to do in situations of Self Neglect, a referral should be made to Adult Services to initiate an assessment.

Sexual abuse:

This includes indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, as well as rape. Sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography, witnessing sexual acts, and sexual acts that were not consented to or where pressured into consenting to all count as sexual abuse.

Domestic abuse

Behaviour of a person ("A") towards another person ("B") is "domestic abuse" if— (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and(b) the behaviour is abusive.

May consist of any of the following

- ▶ physical or sexual abuse;
- ▶ violent or threatening behaviour;
- ▶ controlling or coercive behaviour;
- ▶ economic abuse
- ▶ psychological, emotional or other abuse;

Modern Slavery

This is a human rights violation that impacts on a person's physical and mental health. It includes human trafficking, forced labour, domestic servitude and sexual exploitation.

Not referred in the Care Act 2014, but recognised as a new and emerging form of abuse is:

New technologies abuse

This may involve abuse through bullying and intimidation using texting, mobile phones and emails. Exposure to inappropriate materials via internet sites and games and predators making contact with people through social networking sites.

4. Who may be the abuser?

Adults with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse from a wide range of people including relatives and family members, professional staff, paid care workers, volunteers, other service users, neighbours, friends and associates. Some people deliberately exploit strangers that they view as less likely to recognise the exploitation or less likely to seek help.

Where might abuse take place?

- ▶ A person's home
- ▶ A relative or friend's home
- ▶ A day centre or support service
- ▶ Within a supported living scheme
- ▶ Within an adult placement
- ▶ An educational establishment
- ▶ A hospital
- ▶ A care home
- ▶ In employment
- ▶ Whilst volunteering

► Community setting

YMCA East Surrey will also work closely with, and adhere to the guidelines issued by, the relevant Local Safeguarding Adults Boards in areas where YMCA East Surrey delivers services (currently Surrey and West Sussex).

5. Indicators of abuse

There are a variety of ways that somebody in the organisation may become aware of the actual or likely occurrence of abuse of an adult at risk.

These include:

- An adult might tell them
- Someone else might report that an adult has told them or that they strongly believe that an adult has been or is being abused
- An adult might show some signs of physical injury for which there appears to be no satisfactory explanation
- An adult's behaviour may indicate to them that it is likely that she or he is being abused
- Something in the behaviour of one of the workers, or in the way that a worker relates to an adult at risk, alerts them or makes them feel uncomfortable in some way
- Observing one adult at risk abusing another

6. Responding to disclosure of abuse

Staff and volunteers should always take seriously any disclosure concerning an allegation of abuse.

They should listen carefully and not interrupt or stop someone telling them their story. They should not interrogate the details but should be empathetic and reassuring. The service user should be enabled to remain empowered and in control and should be asked what action they would like taken (presuming they do not lack mental capacity). The member of staff must inform the service user that they have a duty to report and in turn make a report to their Line Manager verbally and then create a Concern using MyConcern Safeguarding software.

The person should be made aware of the possibility that medical or other forensic evidence may be required. They should also be informed of any actions that may need to be taken including steps to protect and support them. Information should be recorded as soon as possible on MyConcern Safeguarding software and always within 24 hours.

Staff should not contact the alleged abuser or discuss the allegations with them, nor should they pass the information to anyone other than those with a legitimate need to know, such as their Line Manager or member of the Heads of Service group.

In some circumstances a Senior Manager, having heard details of the allegations and having discussed the matter with their Head of Service may determine that the allegations although logged will not be further investigated and after triaging they will close the Concern on MyConcern. This may be because the allegation reiterates an ongoing concern expressed by the service user already previously investigated or it may be seen as a symptom of their current mental health, which has already been addressed within the current risk assessment management plan.

Remember: It is important that everyone in the organisation is aware that the person who first encounters a case of alleged or suspected abuse is not responsible for deciding whether or not abuse has occurred, this decision is the responsibility of others.

7. Capacity and consent

All action, including referrals to Adult Social Services and the Police, must be subject to the consent of the service user. In every situation it will be assumed that a person can make their own decisions, and action will only be taken in the absence of consent from the service user:

- ▶ If other people appear to be at risk of harm (adults or children)
- ▶ If there is a 'legal restriction' or an overriding public interest
- ▶ If the adult is exposed to life threatening risk and they are unreasonably withholding their consent
- ▶ If the adult has impaired capacity or decision making in relation to the safeguarding issues and the withholding of consent.

A "Legal Restriction" in this context means that there may be exceptional circumstances where a service user decides or intends to act in a way that is unlawful or where their need for care should be addressed under the Mental Health Act 1983. "Overriding public interest" refers to a situation where it is essential to share information to prevent a crime or to protect others from harm (e.g. "Hate Crimes", for which there is a statutory responsibility to report). This is supported by the Crime and Disorder Act, 1998

8. Information sharing and confidentiality

YMCA East Surrey's Information Sharing and Confidentiality policies and procedures will be followed in all cases where information is received concerning the possible abuse of one of our service users.

When making decisions with regard to information sharing and confidentiality, staff should always:

- ▶ Take advice from their line manager
- ▶ Ensure that they are working within locally agreed information sharing protocols and national guidance
- ▶ Remember that, when necessary, contact can be made with the Local Authority Safeguarding Adults team, for advice purposes, whilst maintaining the anonymity of the service user
- ▶ Ensure that decisions are in line with current legislation

The basic principles of information sharing, and confidentiality are:

- ▶ All staff should be aware of their responsibilities to respect confidentiality and comply with the law (NB: The Data Protection Act 2018 does not preclude the sharing of information to protect a person from harm, danger and abuse)
- ▶ A person's consent should always be sought (apart from in exceptional circumstances – see above Capacity and Consent), prior to information about them being discussed or disclosed to another party
- ▶ Consent should always be recorded, together with the purpose for which the information will be used.

- ▶ Information given for one purpose should not be used for another, without further consent being obtained. Access to person identifiable information should be on a strict need to know basis
- ▶ Clear documentation and record keeping must support these communications and any decision-making processes. Service users must be kept informed and updated.

9. What to do if you have concerns about an Adult Safeguarding incident

Stage 1

- ▶ Staff should contact the emergency services immediately if a service user appears to be in immediate physical danger and take any necessary action to prevent any further harm to the individual. They should also be aware of the need to preserve/retain any forensic evidence.
- ▶ If there appears to be no immediate physical danger proceed directly to Stage 2.

Stage 2

- ▶ Staff should discuss the situation and courses of action available with the service user who has had abuse perpetrated upon them.
- ▶ Add the allegation to MyConcern with details of name, incident, location, date, etc.
- ▶ Staff should contact their Senior Manager (SM) immediately except where that individual is the alleged abuser. If the SM is unavailable staff should contact their Head of Service (HOS); or if they are unavailable, another member of the HOS Group, to report the full facts and circumstances of the situation and to discuss required actions including:
 - Deciding to take no further action. The process, (who was involved) and justification (reasoning) for making that decision would need to be recorded and to be transparent.
 - Deciding if the person is an adult with care needs, determining if they have mental capacity and whether consent has been obtained.
 - Determining if a referral to the Police or Adults Social Care is required
 - If it is agreed that the matter is to be investigated internally, it should be logged with Adults Social Care, and they should be properly informed.
 - If there is any requirement to inform the bodies for registration, regulation or inspection (e.g. Care Quality Commission) or if the allegation is against a member of staff or volunteer, the Designated Person for Managing Allegations within the Safeguarding Adults team of the Local Authority must be informed within 24 hours of the concerns being raised/becoming apparent
 - Is there a need to contact partner care/support agencies?
 - Review of relevant records, particularly similar incidents of the same kind
 - Consider the immediate health/welfare needs of the alleged victim or any other adult with care needs who may be affected and methods for supporting the service user, including access to counselling services

The alleged perpetrator should not be spoken to without consultation with the Local Authority unless immediate action is required, such as suspending a member of staff. In these circumstances, the only information that can be provided is that an allegation has been made. No details of the allegation can be given at this time, so as not to compromise any potential investigate.

Stage 3

Staff having obtained the views of the service user, will establish the known facts of the abuse and with the support of their SM/HOS, must document all known details in full.

Prior to making a referral to the Local Authority, only information about the alleged abuse should be sought. No investigation should take place, and only actions to mitigate immediate significant risk should be taken prior to consultation.

It is essential that all documentation on MyConcern is completed in a manner that is:

- ▶ Clear and factual.
- ▶ Reflects the words and phrases used by the person disclosing.
- ▶ Describes the circumstances in which the disclosure came about i.e. the context, setting and anyone else who was there at the time.
- ▶ Contains factual information only and not your own opinions. Any third-party opinions or information must be clearly identified as such.

Stage 4

There may be no further action, or if there is, the process will differ depending on whether the allegation is about someone internal or external to YMCA East Surrey. But in either case it will be necessary to consider:

- ▶ Who do you need to inform?
- ▶ Who needs to be involved?
- ▶ Does the service user require an advocate? Confidentiality issues
- ▶ Storage of information.

If no referral is made to Social Services or no further action taken, including contacting the police, in line with a service user's wishes, the staff member and SM must:

- ▶ Keep records of all decisions, including why no further action is to be taken
- ▶ Review the service user's Risk Management Plan with the service user and appropriate partner professionals
- ▶ Regularly monitor the situation and review the agreed action plan
- ▶ Discuss with the service user, as appropriate, any helpline or counselling services that are available.

Stage 5

If a referral is made to Adult Social Care this should be made by phone and followed by written notification on MyConcern produced by the local Social Services department.

NB: It is strongly advised that a request is made by you for written confirmation that your referral has been received and acted upon. All correspondence must be logged and stored appropriately by the service in accordance with confidentiality procedures and YMCA East Surrey's recording standards.

Stage 6

If the accused is a member of staff, volunteer or student and has been deemed to be responsible for acts of abuse following the conclusion of any investigation, then they will need to be referred to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

When YMCA East Surrey believes an employee or volunteer has caused harm or poses a future risk to adults or children; and this has led to the

employee's/volunteer's dismissal, it is the responsibility of the HR Department to refer this information and the decision to dismiss to the DBS and make a record on the personnel file which will be retained in adherence with the Data Protection Policy. When an individual's name is placed on the Barred List, that person is not able to work with adults with care needs until his or her name is removed from the list.

10. Recording

Accurate case records are essential. YMCA East Surrey, through its induction process, will ensure that staff know what is expected of them in terms of style, content and the timely production of MyConcern records. It will make sure that there are systems in place for checking that case records are accurate and up to date.

Any allegations of abuse must be recorded in writing and placed on MyConcern, as soon as possible and always within 24 hours. If the alleged abuser is a user of the same service, any relevant information about their behaviour or demeanour should also be recorded.

Staff must ensure that all data is kept safe and secure and make sure the information is:

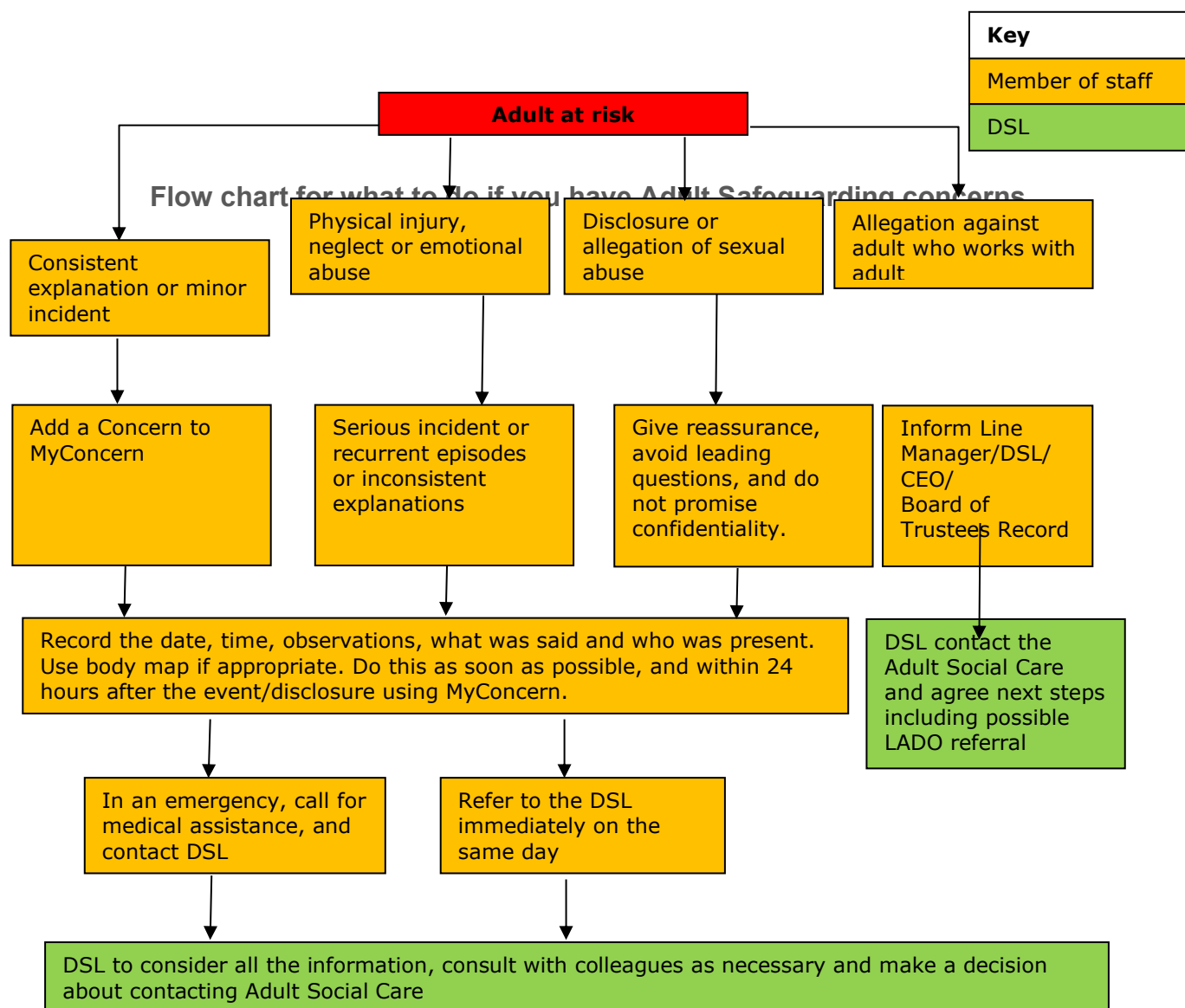
- ▶ Used lawfully;
- ▶ Used for limited, specifically stated purposes;
- ▶ Used in a way that is adequate, relevant and accurate;
- ▶ Not excessive;
- ▶ Handled according to people's data protection rights (see the [Data Protection policy](#));
- ▶ The DSL will keep all records involving adult protection concerns;
- ▶ Records concerning a member of staff must be held in their personnel file and a copy given to the member of staff (where applicable). This information must be retained on file until the person reaches retirement age or for 10 years if that is longer.

It is imperative that any concerns are accurately recorded as the matter could go on to case conference and/or legal proceedings. The record should include the context, a detailed account of the concerns, what was said or seen and by whom. It is important to record the actual words used by the child or the referrer. The record should indicate:

- ▶ Who was present;
- ▶ Who was consulted;
- ▶ How any decisions were made and the reasoning behind them and by whom;
- ▶ Any actions taken.

If a decision was made, to take no action, then the reasoning for that decision must also be recorded. All records on MyConcern are associated with an individual and dated.

Remember: more minor incidents, concerns and conversations should also be recorded to ensure that there is an accurate picture of the adult's lived experience and to assist in the developing picture of potential abuse and risk



If there is an adult safeguarding concern, it should be referred to Surrey/West Sussex County Council's Adult Social Care Services via the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). During office hours (9am to 5pm) contact the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) by phone or email as follows:

	Surrey	West Sussex
Tel:	0300 200 1005	033 022 28400
Email	ascmash@surreycc.gov.uk	
Online	Online form	online form

Out of hours:

- Call the Adult Social Care Emergency Duty Team on: 01483 517898 (Surrey)
033 022 27007 (West Sussex)

In an emergency:

- Dial 999 for the emergency services

11. Escalation: resolving interagency agreements

Problem solving is an integral part of interagency working and particularly in relation to safeguarding. Professional disagreements are to be expected as part of a dynamic process and only become dysfunctional if not resolved in a transparent, constructive and timely fashion.

Effective 'working together' can only be achieved when agencies establish an open and honest relationship based on a genuine commitment to partnership working. As part of this, there needs to be an agreement and an agreed system in place, to enable disagreements to be resolved promptly and hopefully to the satisfaction of all parties. The aim should be to resolve difficulties at the level at which they occur e.g. if two practitioners from different agencies disagree, in the first instance they should try and resolve the difficulty themselves. If this proves impossible, then the matter should be escalated until it is resolved.

Disagreements may arise in a number of areas, but often it can be in relation to thresholds and differing opinions about the need for action, communication difficulties between agencies and a lack of clarity about roles and responsibilities. It is important to:

- ▶ Avoid professional disputes that put adults with care needs at risk of continuing harm
- ▶ Ensure the focus on the adult with care needs is not lost and does not become obscured
- ▶ Resolve difficulties within and between agencies quickly and transparently

Identify problem areas in partnership working and amend, where necessary, any joint protocols or procedures

What to do when difficulties arise

When problems first arise, initial attempts to resolve the difficulty should be made by the people immediately involved. Differences in status and experience may impact on a worker's confidence to pursue this unsupported, in which case, it is imperative that they discuss the matter and get any necessary support from their line Manager, in a timely manner.

Each Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) ought to have an agreed procedure and process for resolving professional disputes. Please refer to LSAB website for your local area.

Most typically, this procedure will state that:

- ▶ If the matter remains unresolved then it should be referred to the line Manager for resolution at the next level. It may then be necessary for that line Manager to discuss the issue with their opposite number in the other agency to achieve resolution. This may include a face-to-face meeting between the Managers and workers involved to explore the problem openly and transparently and to gain resolution.

If the problem remains unresolved, then the matter will need to be referred upwards in each agency until a resolution is found.

A clear written record should be kept at all stages and by all parties and should upon resolution, include written confirmation between the parties about the agreed outcome of the disagreement and how any outstanding issues will be dealt with.

If it proves impossible to reach an agreement and the matter is of a safeguarding nature, then the matter should be referred to the Chair of the Local Safeguarding Adults Board for mediation.

To promote continuing good working relationships between agencies, it may be helpful after some disputes to have a debrief meeting for those who have been involved.

12. Non-recent abuse allegations

The framework for the response to non-recent abuse allegations will depend on the age of the person at the time of the abuse or neglect.

If the person was under 18 years old

The response by all agencies to allegations by an adult of abuse experienced as a child must be of as high a standard as a response to allegations of current abuse because:

- ▶ There is a significant likelihood that a person who abused a child in the past will have continued and may still be doing so;
- ▶ Criminal prosecution remains a possibility, if sufficient evidence can be carefully collated;
- ▶ Any potential victims should have the opportunity to be listened to.

An adult safeguarding enquiry cannot be used as the response to abuse that occurred when the person was under 18 years old. The framework for the response will be the **Surrey Safeguarding Children Partnership Procedures**.

If the person has care and support needs today arising from their experience of abuse as a child there may be a role for health, social care or other services to respond to these. If the person experienced abuse in Surrey but now lives elsewhere, it may be the services in that area are the ones that would provide the support they need.

If the person was 18 years old or over

An adult safeguarding response will be appropriate, unless the concerns have already been looked in to.

If the concerns have already been looked in to and the person is dissatisfied with the response to those concerns this should be brought to the attention of the person responsible for managing the service that gave the response, who can consider if there is any action required such as use of a complaints process.

13. Death of an adult with care needs

Offsite

When a member of staff becomes aware that a service user known to YMCA East Surrey Action has unexpectedly died or been seriously injured, they must immediately notify their Line Manager who will inform the CEO.

The CEO, having heard the detail of the case and any involvement we may have had, will advise as to whether the file should be secured.

Staff are expected to co-operate fully with any subsequent enquiries made by the Local Safeguarding Adults Board, Police or other statutory agencies.

Onsite

In the event of finding adult with care needs who is unconscious or suspected to have died the priority is to obtain urgent medical assistance by ringing the emergency services and beginning first aid (All YMCA buildings have a qualified first aider on duty).

Resuscitation once commenced should be continued according to [the UK Council Resuscitation Guidelines 2015](#) until an experienced doctor has decided that it is appropriate to stop.

Professionals should notify the Police if they are not already present.

All professionals must ensure that they retain a written record of the initial referral to them and take note of:

- ▶ The position of the adult, the clothing worn and the circumstances of how they were found;
- ▶ Explanations for any injury and any discrepancies;
- ▶ Comments made by the carers;
- ▶ Background history, any possible alcohol/drug misuse and the conditions of the living accommodation;
- ▶ Any known underlying medical condition the adult may have.

All professionals should provide all the above information and, where applicable, any suspicions must be provided to the receiving Doctor and the Police immediately.

The comments of carers if present or available must be noted in detail.

Anyone who contributes to the written records must legibly sign, date and put their designation/role.

If there is a death of an adult with care needs at a YMCA East Surrey project or setting it may be necessary for a YMCA professional to contribute to the rapid response planning meeting /discussion. The Line Manager and the DSL should be consulted to ensure that the most appropriate staff member contributes to this meeting.

YMCA East Surrey will ensure that the staff member making the disclosure is supported and protected from reprisals or victimisation as a result of an expression of concern. The Public Disclosure Act (1998) provides protection for staff who raise concerns about poor practice, institutional abuse or other organisational failings that pose a risk to service users or are causing them harm.

14. YMCA East Surrey Safer Recruitment Process

YMCA East Surrey is committed to [Surrey County Council's Safer Recruitment](#). All new employees must have a role relevant DBS check and three years' worth of references. Any gaps in employment/activity over one month must be explained and verified.

YMCA East Surrey will carry out the following to minimise the risk of employing (or engaging on a voluntary basis) an individual who poses a predictable risk to children and young people:

- ▶ Methodically applying techniques which are accepted as helpful in identifying unsuitable individuals
- ▶ Analysing rigorously all the information, which is available about the candidate and, whenever possible, verifying through references, information which is provided by the candidate

To ensure that those involved in selecting staff can successfully test the candidates' ability and experience against a clearly defined person specification the YMCA will make sure managers can access:

- ▶ Specific training in respect of safe recruitment and selection
- ▶ Supervised / supported experience of recruitment
- ▶ Periodic evaluation of performance by their supervisors

For more information, please see [Recruitment and selection policy June 2022.pdf](#)

15. Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks

The [Protection of Freedoms Act 2012](#) sets out the foundation for the Disclosure and Barring Service. It has an Independent Barring Board (IBB) with responsibility for taking barring decisions on new referrals and the management of two barred lists which replaced List 99, PoCA and PoVA Lists. The system aims to provide employers with a quicker and more effective vetting and barring service. All disclosures for work with children and vulnerable persons are to be at an enhanced level for Regulated Activity. The new organisation, DBS, will provide a service combining criminal records checking and the barring functions:

- ▶ The barring part of the DBS will provide caseworkers, who receive and process referrals about individuals, who have harmed, or who pose a risk of harm to, children, young people or vulnerable adults
- ▶ The checking part of the DBS will allow employers to check and access the criminal record history of people working, or applying to work (whether paid or unpaid) in certain positions, especially those that involve working with children and vulnerable adults
- ▶ The [Disclosure and Barring Service \(Home Office\)](#) provides a range of advice, guidance and relevant forms.

Disclosure of any convictions, cautions, bind-overs which they have received should be requested on the job application form. Any such details must be declared even if they would be considered 'spent' in other circumstances. If a person who has made such disclosures is selected for appointment, they should ask to be asked to apply for an Enhanced DBS Disclosure to verify their declarations.

16. Training

YMCA East Surrey recognises the complexity of the safeguarding work undertaken by members of staff, and the emotional impact it can have upon them. All staff, as part of induction, are introduced to Safeguarding, and their responsibilities in relation to it.

All members of staff who have any contact with adults with care needs receive safeguarding training at basic or more advanced level according to their role.

Furthermore, all professionals at YMCA East Surrey require a general awareness of known indicators and predisposing factors of abuse as well as detailed knowledge of agreed policies and procedures.

Operational staff are required to undertake internal refresher training every 24 months, to ensure they are updated on changes to best practice and legislation. Additionally, managers will examine the Local Safeguarding Adults Board Training for their area and identify the prescribed levels and topics of training required by the LSAB. This will be incorporated into the training plans for individual staff and whole teams where relevant.

The [Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board \(SSAB\) training](#) for staff engaged in Safeguarding Adults

Managers must keep records of training attended and assess the training needs of staff continuously, ensuring that staff are trained to undertake their roles effectively.

17. Placement matching and providing a safe space

Placement matching is mainly relevant with our Housing Services. The process of carefully selecting the most suitable accommodation for a young person, ensuring it meets their needs, promotes their safety, and supports their development.

Key Principles of Supported Housing Placement Matching

Supported housing placement matching focuses on providing accommodation alongside tailored support to help individuals live as independently as possible. The process considers the individual needs and vulnerabilities of each person, aiming to promote their safety, well-being, and development. This approach is especially crucial for groups such as care leavers, young people with complex needs, and other vulnerable.

Key Considerations in Placement Matching include:

- Needs assessment.
- Risk assessment
- Accommodation suitability
- Compatibility with other residents
- Proximity to support services.
- Cultural and personal preferences
- Missing episodes

At YMCA East Surrey we ensure our placement matching is a thorough, person-centred process involving detailed assessments, collaborative information sharing, and careful consideration of compatibility, safety, and preferences. The goal is to ensure placements support individuals to thrive, remain safe, and develop independence within suitable, high-quality accommodation. A link to the guidance for staff when placement matching can be found on SharePoint: [3. Appendix 3 - Placement Matching Guidance.docx](#)

Creating a safe space is about cultivating an environment where people feel genuinely secure—emotionally, physically, and psychologically, to express themselves without fear of judgment, discrimination, or harm.

A safe space for service users can be found within all buildings. For example, residents within our Housing accommodation is to aid our safe, stable, and tailored accommodation. It is vital we provide trauma informed, compassionate support for vulnerable groups such as young people leaving care, those experiencing mental health distress, homelessness, or complex needs, designed to help individuals live independently and securely.