**Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults**

**Organisational Commitment**

MyVision Oxfordshire is committed to supporting Vulnerable Adults with sight loss in Oxfordshire and ensuring that any activities and services, which are provided for them, should be done so in a safe and supportive framework, where everyone in the organisation is clear on their responsibilities with regard to ensuring the safety of adults from abuse in all its various forms. Failure of any member of staff or volunteer to adhere to the policy will be investigated thoroughly and swiftly as soon as any such shortcoming is highlighted.

**Purpose of Policy**

The purpose of the policy is to clearly outline to all MyVision Oxfordshire’s staff and volunteers (as well as other individuals and agency staff who may be involved in certain activities or services which MyVision Oxfordshire offers) **their responsibilities in ensuring Vulnerable Adults in our care at any time are safe.** The policy definesthe differing forms of abuse, how to recognise them and how to report it. It will also outline the training and support available to MyVision Oxfordshire staff and volunteers to ensure this happens.

**Definition of a Vulnerable Adult**

Someone of 16 years or over who:

• is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who,

• is or may be unable to take care of themself unable to protect themself against significant harm or exploitation.

The term “Vulnerable Adult” also includes frail older people receiving care from family members, friends or neighbours.

**Definitions of Abuse**

Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be an act of neglect or an omission to act or it may occur when a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which they have 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.

**Physical Abuse:**

Includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.

**Sexual Abuse:**

Any act of a sexual nature to which the vulnerable adult has not consented, or could not consent, or was pressured into consenting.

**Psychological Abuse:**

Includes emotional abuse, threats of harm, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supporting networks.

**Financial or Material Abuse:**

Includes theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions, or benefits.

**Neglect and Acts of Omission:**

Includes 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, e.g. medication, adequate nutrition and heating.

**Discriminatory Abuse:**

Includes racist, sexist, that based on a person’s disability, and other forms of harassment, slurs, or similar treatment.

**Personal Responsibility**

Everybody at MyVision Oxfordshire, staff, trustees and volunteers, has a responsibility to report all cases of suspected abuse as outlined in the six categories above.

**Procedures for reporting possible abuse**

Any member of staff or volunteer who suspects a Vulnerable Adult is being abused should inform, in the first instance, the Chief Executive, who will take the responsibility of investigating and subsequently reporting, if necessary, the details to Oxfordshire County Council Social Services Department. The Chief Executive will also inform the Chair of Trustees.

**Recording possible adult abuse concerns:**

The Chief Executive will keep a record of any concerns over suspected Adult Abuse and the action taken in each case.

**Recruitment**

MyVision Oxfordshire will maintain a rigorous recruitment procedure for both staff and volunteers including DBS and reference checks to ensure MyVision Oxfordshire personnel, whose role would bring them into contact with Vulnerable Adults, are suitable for such work.

**Training**

All staff and volunteers who are newly recruited will receive a copy of the Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy during their induction training, which will also include training on how to recognise and report Vulnerable Adult abuse.

**Monitoring and Review**

The Chief Executive and Volunteer Coordinator will regularly monitor and review the policy to ensure it is current in terms of both procedure and best practice. This will include checking the Council’s website: [www.safefromharm.org.uk](http://www.safefromharm.org.uk)

**Overall Responsibility**

The Chief Executive will have overall responsibility for the implementation of the Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy to ensure compliance and consistency in the application of this policy across the organisation.

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| Created by: Mark Upton | On: January 2024 |
| Approved by: Full Board | On: January 2025 |
| Review Date: | January 2026 |

Signed:



Mark Upton, Chief Executive