

Safeguarding Policy – Vulnerable Adults

If anyone involved with Growing Points believes that a customer or a member of their family is at risk or has been abused they have a responsibility to contact immediately the Director of Growing Points on 07508788758. The Director will contact the relevant local authority Adult Services Team.* If the risk is immediate and serious dial 999 before contacting the Director.

Details must be recorded and sent to the Director
jane@growingpoints.co.uk.

If the Director is out of contact the next person to telephone is the Chairman Dick Stockford on 07889752169.
Dick@growingpoints.co.uk

*Our customers live in a variety of Local Authority areas but here is a link to West Sussex County Council's website
<https://www.westsussex.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/social-care-support/adults/raise-a-concern-about-an-adult/>

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Designated Persons

* **Jane Rennie Safeguarding Lead/Designated Person**

jane@growingpoints.co.uk 07809151595

This person is responsible for ensuring that Growing Points deals with safeguarding issues in accordance with these procedures.

* **Dick Stockford: Deputy 07889 752169**

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide those acting within the framework of Growing Points with guidance to make them aware of what action to take should they come across a safeguarding issue.

1) Introduction

Growing Points believes protecting and protecting vulnerable adults from harm, is everybody's business. We are also committed to protecting volunteers from abuse or allegations of abuse.

Definition and relevant legislation

Adults: Growing Points is committed to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults, as required by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006, and guided by 'Safeguarding Adults - A National Framework of Standards for good practice and outcomes in adult protection work'¹².

A vulnerable adult is defined as someone "Who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of disability, age or illness; and is or may be unable to take care of, or unable to protect him or herself, against significant

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▫ http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/47/pdfs/ukpga_20060047_en.pdf

2

▫ <http://www.scie-socialcareonline.org.uk/safeguarding-adults-a-national-framework-of-standards-for-good-practice-in-adult-protection-work/r/a11G0000017rbdIAA>

harm or exploitation". It is the view of Growing Points that this includes refugees and asylum seekers.

"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. Safeguarding is aimed at people with care and support needs who may be in vulnerable circumstances and at risk of abuse or neglect. In these cases, local services must work together to spot those at risk and take steps to protect them.

Other legislation underpinning safeguarding policies includes the Human Rights Act 1998, Data Protection Act 1998, Sexual Offences Act 2003, Protection of Freedoms Act 2012.

2) Training for Volunteers and the Safeguarding Lead

It is a statutory requirement that individual agencies/organisations are responsible for ensuring that all those in contact or working with adults in a paid or voluntary capacity have access to high quality training and support to ensure the safeguarding of children.

Growing Points will provide a mandatory induction which includes familiarisation with adult safeguarding responsibilities and procedures to be followed if anyone has any concerns about a vulnerable adult's safety or welfare.

The training undertaken by all staff and volunteers will provide guidance on thresholds to be met for Safeguarding procedures to be put in place. The guiding principle in relation to any safeguarding concern is that the safety and welfare of the vulnerable adult is paramount.

If in doubt contact the Director to discuss your concerns – contact details on page 3.

3) Principles and Values

Growing Points is committed to the following principles:

- All vulnerable adults have a right to be protected at all times and the safety and wellbeing of these groups should never be compromised.
- Where there is an allegation of or suspected abuse the safety of the vulnerable adult involved must always take precedence.
- When following procedures and processes, positive outcomes for vulnerable adults should be kept in sight at all times.

- Growing Points will respond to the particular needs of vulnerable adults, from black and other ethnic minority backgrounds, whatever their sexual orientation, whether or not they follow a religion, whatever religion they follow. We recognise that abuse of vulnerable adults occurs in all religions, all social classes and all cultures.
- This policy will be available to all those acting within Growing Points on the website.
- We recognise that the people with whom we work need clear guidance on how to respond to and report potential abuse.

4) ADULTS

Adults with care and support needs – safeguarding duties

The adult safeguarding duties under the Care Act 2014 apply to an adult, aged 18 or over, who:

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

Care and support is the mixture of practical, financial and emotional support for adults who need extra help to manage their lives and be independent - including older people, people with a disability or long-term illness, people with mental health problems, and carers. Care and support includes assessment of people's needs, provision of services and the allocation of funds to enable a person to purchase their own care and support. It could include care home, home care, personal assistants, day services, or the provision of aids and adaptations.

Different forms of abuse and neglect of adults

- **Physical abuse**
- **Domestic violence**
- **Sexual abuse**
- **Psychological abuse**
- **Financial or material abuse**

- **Modern slavery**
- **Discriminatory abuse**
- **Institutional/organisational abuse**
- **Neglect**

5) Preventing Violent Extremism in vulnerable adults

CONTEST:

Extremists are known to target individuals for recruitment. Violent extremists can offer a very persuasive rationale and are often very charismatic to attract people to their cause. The Home Office leads on the Counter Terrorism Agenda and the national strategy is called CONTEST. The aim of CONTEST is to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence^{3 4}.

- **PURSUE** - To stop terrorist attacks.
- **PROTECT** - To strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack.
- **PREPARE** - To mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.
- **PREVENT** - To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.

Channel - Multi Agency safeguarding process, which provides support to those who may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The Prevent agenda links closely with that of safeguarding.

PREVENT

Preventing individuals from being drawn into serious and organised crime. Growing Points requires key staff and volunteers to undertake Prevent e-learning: <https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk>.

As an example of those vulnerable to being drawn into inappropriate groups or criminal behaviour, the Home Office cites the need for a sense of belonging. "Membership of a subculture can provide a strong sense of belonging to individuals who have had a disruptive upbringing. Individuals may be drawn into

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▣

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/97976/prevent-strategy-review.pdf

4

▣ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/counter-terrorism-and-security-bill>

serious and organised crime in order to provide a sense of belonging to their family, friends, or even community”.

Note: There are a range of existing local and national programmes that partners can refer individuals to, including gangs programmes, Troubled Families programmes and the Channel programme (where the individual is also at risk of being drawn into terrorism).

6) YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES AS A VOLUNTEER

Roles and Responsibilities

(i) What to do if you're concerned a Vulnerable Adult may be experiencing abuse

Where anyone associated with Growing Points is concerned that a Vulnerable Adult, who is a person over 18 years of age, is being abused by relatives, family members, professional staff, paid care workers, volunteers, other service users, neighbours, friends, associates, or strangers, a telephone call should be made to:

Jane Rennie 07809151595

ii) Whistleblowing - what to do if you are concerned that another volunteer or trustee may be acting wrongfully

Growing Points will not tolerate inappropriate relationships between volunteers and the vulnerable people we serve.

Whistleblowing is when someone raises a concern about a dangerous or illegal activity or any wrongdoing within their organisation. It is a vital process for identifying risks to people's safety. Sharing information or talking through a concern can be a first step to helping an organisation identify problems and improve their practice.

Concerns should be raised in the first instance with the Director Jane Rennie jane@growingpoints.co.uk 07809151595 or Dick Stockford dick@growingpoints.co.uk 07889752169. The outcome of the investigation of these concerns will be reported to the Trustees.

The Director will be responsible for following up the referral with the relevant Adult Services Team to check on progress / any action taken.

7) Safer Recruitment

Growing Points takes all reasonable measures to ensure that all volunteers working with vulnerable adults are verified as suitable, in line with Growing Points

policy of non-discrimination on grounds of religion, race, colour, sexual orientation or disability. Training will be provided for all staff and volunteers. See Section 2 above.

Measures includes:

- taking up DBS checks and
- personal references on those volunteering
- all volunteers to be interviewed by at least 2 members of an interview panel of whom one must be a trustee conversant with our policy
- the Director should be conversant with the principles of safer recruitment and act in an advisory capacity.

8) Reviewing, updating and dissemination of Policies

Growing Points' policies in relation to safeguarding are reviewed annually, any necessary updates added, and training needs noted and referred for action. The Director is responsible for ensuring these are reviewed / updated / disseminated.

The policy is available on the Growing Points website. www.growingpoints.co.uk