

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AT RISK POLICY

1.0 Policy Statement

1.1 The Mare and Foal Sanctuary places the highest priority on safety and enjoyment. We recognise that we have a duty of care towards Adults at Risk across our organisation encompassing all stakeholders; our supporters, staff, volunteers, visitors and participants of our education and equine assisted programmes. Any organisation, establishment or individual providing equine assisted service opportunities must do so with the highest possible standard of care. To ensure this, the British Equestrian Federation and its Member Bodies are committed to devising and implementing policies and procedures to ensure all those involved accept their responsibilities to safeguard Adults at Risk from harm and abuse in accordance with the Care Act 2014.

1.2 The Mare and Foal Sanctuary fully adopts the British Equestrian Federation (BEF) Safeguarding Policy (Adults at Risk), the full policy can be downloaded from the BEF website:

<https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/getInvolved/safeguarding/what-is-safeguarding>

2.0 Aims and Introduction

2.1 This guidance aims to help staff and volunteers understand what they need to do, and what they can expect of one another, to safeguard Adults at Risk. It focuses on core legal requirements and makes clear what individuals and organisations should do to keep those who are vulnerable safe. In doing so, it seeks to emphasise that effective safeguarding systems are those where:

- The welfare and safety of Adults at Risk is of paramount concern
- All adults are treated as individuals and with dignity and respect

3.0 Definition

3.1 The Care Act 2014 defines Safeguarding Adults as:

“Safeguarding duties apply to an adult who: 1. Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and; 2. Is experiencing or at risk of, abuse or neglect and; 3. As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk, or the experience of abuse or neglect.”

If someone has care and support needs but is not currently receiving care or support from a health or care service, they may still be an adult at risk. It is recognised that some adults are vulnerable due to their mental health needs, learning or physical disability. However, there are also adults who are at risk due to specific circumstances such as forced marriage, domestic violence or sexual/commercial exploitation.

3.2 Safeguarding Adults Care Act 2014

The government Care and Statutory support guidance August 2021 defines Adult Safeguarding and why it matters as:



“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, while 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. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances”.

3.3 The guidance given in this policy is based on the following principles:

- All adults, regardless of age, ability or disability, gender, race, religion, ethnic origin, sexual orientation, marital or gender status have the right to be protected from abuse and poor practice and to participate in an enjoyable and safe environment;
- We will seek to ensure that our work with others is inclusive and will endeavour to make all reasonable adjustments for any ability, disability or impairment, we will also commit to continuous development, monitoring and review;
- The rights, dignity and worth of all adults will always be respected;
- We recognise that a disabled adult may or may not identify themselves or be identified as an adult ‘at risk’;
- All allegations will be taken seriously and responded to quickly in line with all safeguarding policies and procedures.

4.0 Statutory Frameworks

4.1 In order to safeguard and promote the welfare of Adults at Risk, the Mare and Foal Sanctuary will act in accordance with the following legislation and guidance in England:

- [The Care Act 2014](#)
- [Sharing Information - January 2019 SCIE](#)
- [Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- Procedures set out by the local Safeguarding Adult Boards eg [Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adult Partnership](#) and [Plymouth Safeguarding Adults Partnership](#).

5.0 Roles of The Mare and Foal Sanctuary

5.1 The Mare and Foal Sanctuary fully accepts its legal (Care Act 2014) and moral obligation to provide a duty of care, to protect all Adults at Risk and safeguard their welfare whilst at our organisation.

5.2 In pursuit of this, we are committed to ensuring that:

- The welfare of all vulnerable groups is paramount and Adults at Risk have the right to protection from abuse;
- We take all reasonable, practical steps to protect Adults at Risk from harm, discrimination and degrading treatment and to respect their rights, wishes and feelings;
- All concerns and allegations of poor practice or abuse are taken seriously and responded to swiftly and appropriately;
- All of our qualified facilitators and our accredited professional coach sign up to Safeguarding Adults at Risk protection procedures that clearly state what is required of them;
- All employees and volunteers are carefully selected, informed about their responsibilities and are provided with guidance and/or training in good practice in relation to Adults at Risk protection procedures;
- High standards of behaviour and practice are maintained through compliance with our codes of conduct for staff and volunteers;



- Through effective communication and training in relation to key safeguarding messages, everyone knows and accepts their responsibilities and works together including; participants, facilitators, volunteers, enablers/ support workers, relevant family members and other professional staff.

5.3 The role of the Designated Safeguarding Lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is:

- To promote education and training to support staff, members and volunteers;
- To manage and monitor the implementation of policy and procedures;
- To be the first point of contact for all stakeholders including; supporters, staff, volunteers, young people and parents/guardians and adult participants for any issue concerning Adults at Risk welfare, poor practice or potential/alleged abuse;
- To record and report information as required in line with our organisational procedures for reporting safeguarding concerns;
- To respond to any allegations or complaints by reporting directly to local authority Adult Safeguarding boards;
- To maintain local contact details for Adults Social Services and the police;
- To ensure confidentiality is maintained and information is only shared on a "need to know" basis;
- Operationally, to deal with the complaint/allegation to conclusion in line with agreed organisational protocols.

6.0 Communication

6.1 The Mare and Foal Sanctuary will make available its Safeguarding Policy and Procedures to all supporters, staff, volunteers, participants and their carers'/support and family members and it will appear in full on the Mare and Foal Sanctuary website within the Education and Equine Assisted Services section.

6.2 The Mare and Foal Sanctuary will promote and circulate our safeguarding adults at risk policy to all new participants and their carers'/referees.

6.3 All individuals involved with the Mare and Foal Sanctuary, must adhere to the Staff and Volunteer Code of Conduct as part of their induction process. All safeguarding incident concern forms and related communications are logged and securely stored on a Safeguarding SharePoint which only key members of staff have access to.

7.0 Training

7.1 All staff and volunteers will receive in house safeguarding training giving an overview of Safeguarding and outlining our policies and procedures for Adults at Risk. Annual refresher training is provided to all staff and volunteers.

7.2 Designated Safeguarding Leads will complete Level 2 Adult Safeguarding training. Refresher training must be completed every three years via an approved online training portal or a further face to face course. Any new appointments of staff and volunteers working with adults at risk will undertake Safeguarding training as part of their initial training/induction unless they can evidence that they have undertaken the course with another member body in the last three years.

7.3 All Safeguarding training for staff and volunteers is recorded and monitored on an internal single central record.



8.0 Types of Adult Abuse and Exploitation

8.1 Abuse is an intentional or unintentional act that harms, hurts or exploits another individual/s. Abuse can take many forms, but no type of abuse is acceptable. The Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership outline the following types of abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Discriminatory abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Organisational abuse
- Emotional abuse
- Financial abuse
- Online abuse
- Stalking
- Neglect
- Female genital mutilation
- Domestic abuse
- Self neglect
- Hoarding

8.2 Exploitation is the deliberate manipulation or abuse of power used to have control over another person, usually for some form of gain. This can be for a range of reasons including personal, financial and sexual. Exploitation can take many forms, but no type of exploitation is acceptable. The Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership outline the following types of exploitation:

- Sexual exploitation
- Predatory Marriage
- Cuckooing
- Scamming
- Modern slavery and human trafficking
- Blackmail
- Radicalisation
- Fraud
- County lines
- Mate crime

8.3 The categories of abuse and exploitation outlined above are described in more detail on the Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership website:

<https://www.devonsafeguardingadultspartnership.org.uk/abuse>

8.4 There are several ways that you may become aware of abuse for example; you see it happening, you recognise the signs or you are informed by a third party. If you become aware of abuse or poor practice it is important that you report the information to the Designated Safeguarding Leads. Or if you think that a person is at risk of immediate danger then contact the Police immediately.

9.0 Health and wellbeing

9.1 Good physical and emotional health is key to living a fulfilled life. When someone is struggling to cope, either physically or mentally, it can lead to more serious issues and have a negative impact on their life.



9.2 At the Mare and Foal Sanctuary we know the importance of health and wellbeing and demonstrate our commitment to this by having a number of staff across our organisation that are qualified Mental Health First Aiders and Mental Health Champions who are able to provide support to staff volunteers, supporters and participants. Mental Health First Aiders are listed and displayed alongside physical First Aiders at all of our sanctuary care sites and online on our staff Intranet in the Wellbeing section. We also promote the voluntary use of Wellness Recovery Action Plans (WRAPs) for all staff and volunteers to encourage conversations between managers, staff and volunteers about anything that might be affecting health and wellbeing, and the adjustments that a colleague would appreciate to support their recovery to optimum health.

10. Dealing with a Safeguarding Adults Disclosure or Concern

10.1 The Care Act statutory guidance for Adults at Risk highlights 6 important safeguarding principles:

- I. Empowerment - People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent;
- II. Prevention - It is better to take action before harm occurs;
- III. Proportionality - The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented;
- IV. Protection - Support and representation for those in greatest need;
- V. Partnership - Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse;
- VI. Accountability - Accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice.

10.2 If someone discloses abuse to you:

Do:

- Stay calm and try not to show shock or disbelief;
- Listen carefully to what they are saying;
- Be sensitive ('I am sorry that this has happened to you');
- Be aware of the possibility that medical evidence might be needed;
- Tell the person that: - They did the right thing to tell you. - You are treating the information seriously. - It was not their fault. - Ask permission to pass their information on to the appropriate person. - You/the service will take steps to protect and support them;
- Report to the Designated Safeguarding Leads;
- Write down what was said by the person disclosing without delay.

Do Not:

- Press the person for more details;
- Stop someone who is freely recalling significant events; (for example, don't say 'Hold on we'll come back to that later,' as they may not tell you again);
- Jump to conclusions;
- Do not promise to keep secrets; you cannot keep this kind of information confidential;
- Make promises you cannot keep (such as, 'this will never happen to you again');
- Contact the alleged abuser;
- Be judgmental;
- Pass on the information to anyone other than those with a legitimate 'need to know'.

10.3 When recording a disclosure:

- At the first opportunity make a note of the disclosure the date and time and sign your record;
- You should aim to:
 - Note what the people actually said, using their own words and phrases
 - Describe the circumstances in which the disclosure came about
 - Note the setting and anyone else who was there at the time



- Record only factual information not your own opinions
 - Be aware that your report may be required later as part of a legal action or disciplinary procedure
- Under no circumstances should any individual attempt to deal with the problem alone;
 - The primary responsibility of the person who first suspects or is told of abuse is to **report it** and to ensure that their concern is taken seriously;
 - Remember it is **everyone's responsibility** to record and pass on safeguarding concerns appropriately, not to investigate them.

10.4 Reporting a Safeguarding Concern or Incident

All safeguarding concerns or incidents should be reported using our [safeguarding concern or incident report form template](#) which can be found on the staff intranet within the policies and procedures section under 'Safeguarding' and on all safeguarding notice boards at our sites and offices. Copies of any initial notes related to disclosures, incidents or concerns must also be kept and provided to the designated safeguarding leads when reporting a concern.

All safeguarding incidents or concerns should be reported to Dawn Neil the Designated Safeguarding Lead via email marked as high importance and confidential using the following email address: dawn.neil@mareandfoal.org or by calling 07842 061 996.

Safeguarding concerns and incidents will be responded to within 24 hours as outlined within our safeguarding reporting concerns procedure document which is located on the staff intranet and published on our main website.

11. Consent

11.1 Adults at risk (with capacity to consent) - if concerns arise, consent must be obtained from the individual concerned before a referral is made to Adult services or the police. However, if there is genuine concern that there is risk of harm to themselves or others, the information should be passed to Adult Services or the police even if consent is not obtained. Information about an individual should not be given to family or carers without consent of the individual.

11.2 Adults at risk (without capacity to consent) – if concerns arise, and the individual is unable to give consent to information being shared, a referral should be made to the relevant Adult Safeguarding Board and/or the police.

11.3 Involving carers or other family members

When concerns are reported to Designated Safeguarding Leads about the welfare of an Adult at Risk they will aim to work in partnership with carers or other family members. Therefore, in most situations, it would be important to talk to carers or other family members to help clarify any initial concerns (e.g. if behaviour has changed, it is important to check whether there is a reasonable explanation such as family upset or bereavement). However, this must be considered in light of the Adult at Risk's right to confidentiality and the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and ideally should be undertaken with the full consent of the Adult at Risk.

11.4 There are circumstances in which an Adult at Risk might be placed at even greater risk if concerns are shared (eg where a carer or other family member may be responsible for the abuse or not able to respond to the situation appropriately). In these situations, or where concerns still exist, any suspicion, allegation or incident of abuse will be reported by the Designated Safeguarding Leads as soon as possible to the Police or relevant Adult Safeguarding Board.



12.0 Guidance on Information Sharing

[As outlined by NHS England](#), Information sharing is essential for the effective safeguarding of adults and children. In many serious-case reviews, poor information sharing has been identified as a key factor resulting in poor care and missed opportunities to act.

The 7 golden rules

HM Government has produced a useful [guide to information sharing](#) during the transition to the [General Data Protection Regulation \(GDPR\)](#) being implemented (The ICO published further guidance in 2021 in its [Data sharing code of practice](#)). Its seven golden rules set out below (in full) are a valuable tool to aid decisions around data sharing especially for safeguarding issues.

1. Remember that the GDPR, [Data Protection Act 2018](#) and human rights laws are not barriers to justified information sharing but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately;
2. Be open and honest with the individual (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how, and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so;
3. Seek advice from other practitioners, or your information governance lead, if you are in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible;
4. Where possible, share information with consent and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to having their information shared. Under the GDPR and Data Protection Act 2018 you may share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is a lawful basis to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case. When you are sharing or requesting personal information from someone, be clear of the basis upon which you are doing so. Where you do not have consent, be mindful that an individual might not expect information to be shared;
5. Consider safety and well-being. Base your information-sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and well-being of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions;
6. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, adequate, accurate, timely and secure. Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those individuals who need to have it, is accurate and up to date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely;
7. Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom, and for what purpose.

*Advice taken from: [NHS England » Safeguarding](#). Additional useful guidance can be found in: [Pocket Principles of Protection \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

Organisations need to share safeguarding information with the right people at the right time to:

- Prevent death or serious harm
- Coordinate effective and efficient responses
- Enable early interventions to prevent the escalation of risk
- Prevent abuse and harm that may increase the need for care and support
- Maintain and improve good practice in safeguarding adults
- Reveal patterns of abuse that were previously undetected and that could identify others at risk of abuse
- Identify low-level concerns that may reveal people at risk of abuse
- Help people to access the right kind of support to reduce risk and promote wellbeing



- Help identify people who may pose a risk to others and, where possible, work to reduce offending behaviour
- Reduce organisational risk and protect reputation

13.0 Safer Recruitment

13.1 Anyone undertaking a role that involves contact with or responsibility for Adults at Risk should be taken through a Safer Recruitment process.

13.2 We have effective safer recruitment and selection procedures for both paid staff and volunteers.

13.3 Safer Recruitment checklist

Key Safer Recruitment procedures that we undertake to protect Adults at Risk include:

- writing a clear job or role description (what tasks will be involved)
- writing a person specification (what experience or attributes the successful candidate needs in order to carry out the role)
- creating an advertisement for the post
- using an application form to gather relevant information about each applicant
- requiring specific written and / or verbal references
- interviewing the applicant
- for eligible posts, undertaking a criminal record check for adults (Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) England and Wales)
- risk assessment of any concerning information
- verifying qualifications and experience
- recording recruitment decision
- induction to the role (including safeguarding policies and procedures, safeguarding training, sign up to Code of Conduct)
- Probationary period

13.4 Regulated Activity with Adults

At the Mare and Foal Sanctuary we **do not** engage in regulated activity with adults.

There are six categories of regulated activity with adults as defined by the [Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Order 2007](#):

1. Provision of Health Care
2. Provision of Personal Care
3. Provision of Social Work
4. Assistance with general household matters
5. Assistance in the conduct of a person's own affairs
6. Conveying

14.0 Online Safety

14.1 Online safety is an increasing area of concern. We contact adults via email directly or through their carers or referees if necessary e.g. social workers or enablers. Live stream sessions only take place where there are other known professionals or carers / support within secure online meeting forums.

14.2 Our code of behaviour for working with adults at risk online remains the same as face to face delivery.



14.3 We use adult's email addresses or phone numbers to communicate with them, unless this poses a safeguarding risk. We use Mare and Foal Sanctuary accounts to communicate via email or online platforms e.g. EGRESS secure email for responding to personal documents never staffs' personal accounts.

14.4 Any phone calls or text messages are made from Mare and Foal Sanctuary work mobiles or office phones unless there are extenuating circumstances.

14.5 We ensure staff members accessing adult's contact details at home, ensure they comply with the Data Protection Act 2018 as outlined in our GDPR policy.

14.6 Advice and support in relation to potential online abuse and other types of abuse and exploitation and mental health and wellbeing is shared regularly with staff via our staff newsletters and webinars, eg, signposting to the NHS Every Mind Matters materials and resources.

14.7 Concerns and issues relating to online abuse, domestic abuse and mental health in relation to adults are reported as usual using our normal safeguarding reporting procedures.

15.0 Prevent duty

15.1 Prevent duty is part of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy CONTEST 2023. The overall aim of the counter-terrorism strategy, [CONTEST](#), is to reduce the risk from terrorism to the UK, its citizens and interests overseas, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. Prevent remains one of the key pillars of CONTEST, alongside the other three 'P' work strands:

- * Prevent: to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
 - Pursue: to stop terrorist attacks
 - Protect: to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack
 - Prepare: to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack

Link to Prevent duty uk: [Prevent duty guidance: for England and Wales \(accessible\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/prevent-duty-guidance-for-england-and-wales)

15.2 An individual exposed to extremist viewpoints may, over time, be encouraged to carry out an act of violent extremism or terrorism. Strong evidence shows that an intervention can stop someone supporting violent extremism. Extremism is not illegal. Anyone who is identified through Prevent is not automatically criminalised. We all have a role in ensure that our communities remain safe.

15.3 Terrorism can occur anywhere in the world. However, terrorism can be motivated by a range of ideologies or other factors, including religious or political beliefs and racial prejudice. In Devon, extreme right-wing groups, and single-issue groups such as radical animal rights campaigners can pose a significant threat. We can make a difference by sharing any concerns we may have about individuals or groups we meet at work, socially or in any other context.

15.4 The following signs might indicate that someone is being radicalised:

- a change in behaviour, their circle of friends, the way that they interact with others and spend their time;
- accessing extremist material online;
- use of extremist or hate terms to exclude others or incite violence;
- writing or artwork promoting violent extremist messages.

15.5 These possible indicators should not be viewed in isolation; judgement will be required to determine the significance of any behaviour. If you believe that someone may be at risk of radicalisation you should raise your concerns.



15.6 Prevent training is freely available on the government website:
<https://www.elearning.prevent.homeoffice.gov.uk/edu/screen1.html>

15.7 We seek to fulfil our commitment to safeguarding and keeping adults safe from the dangers of radicalisation and extremism through:

Effective communication with adults:

- valuing, listening to and respecting all adults
- seeking to create a safe environment for adults
- ensuring information for adults about their safety and wellbeing is readily available to them and sufficiently clear.

Effective communication and support with staff:

- providing staff with appropriate guidance so they know how to deal with and report any concerns
- providing effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- access to policies and procedures for whistle-blowing and complaints.

16.0 Further Information and Links

The Mare and Foal Sanctuary Designated Safeguarding Lead person's details:

Dawn Neil Head of Education and Equine Assisted Services and Designated Safeguarding Lead for
 The Mare and Foal Sanctuary
 Tel: 01626 355969 Mobile: 07842 061996

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead person for Adults at Risk:

Kerri Luke Volunteer Coordinator for The Mare and Foal Sanctuary
 Tel: 01626 355969 Mobile: 07743 044125

BEF Safeguarding Contact details:

Telephone Numbers: 02475313443 or email safeguarding@bef.co.uk

BHS Lead Safeguarding Officer 02476 840746 safeguarding@bhs.org.uk
 Confidential email: cpleadofficer@bhs.org.uk





Advice from Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership on reporting concerns can be found on their website at: <https://www.devonsafeguardingadultspartnership.org.uk/reporting-a-concern/>

If an adult is in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for the police.

If you suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused, or you are being abused yourself and live within **Devon Local Authority boundaries**, please contact them by:

Calling Care Direct on 0345 1551 007 (Monday to Friday 8.00 am to 8.00 pm and Saturday 9.00 am to 1.00 pm)

Calling the **Emergency Duty Service** on 0345 6000 388 (outside of the hours above or on bank holidays)

Emailing csc.caredirect@devon.gov.uk

If you are reporting concerns because you suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused, or you are being abused yourself and live within **Torbay Local Authority boundaries** please contact them by:

Calling the **Torbay Safeguarding Adults Single Point of Contact Team** on 01803 219700 (Monday to Friday, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm)

Calling the **Emergency Duty Service** on 0300 4564 876 (outside of the above hours, weekends and bank holidays)

Emailing safeguarding.alertstct@nhs.net

If you are reporting concerns because you suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused, or you are being abused yourself and live within **Plymouth Local Authority boundaries** please call 01752 668000 or report your concern using their online [safeguarding referral form](#).

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

If you are reporting a concern in a professional capacity relating to a member of staff or the Designated Safeguarding Lead's conduct you should contact the professional contacts for these local authorities which are provided on the Torbay and Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership website: [Report your concern - Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership](#)

Useful Documents

Please see British Equestrian Federation (BEF) website for useful templates and documents
BEF Safeguarding links:
<https://www.britishequestrian.org.uk/getInvolved/safeguarding/what-is-safeguarding>

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This Policy has been reviewed by Jacqueline Watton, Safeguarding Lead Trustee – January 2024

