



## **ADDENDUM:**

### **Impact of Coronavirus - Safeguarding Adult's policy**

#### **Health for All**

### **Safeguarding principles**

#### **Principles stay the same**

Although day-to-day working arrangements may be different, the key principles of Health for All's adult safeguarding policy remains the same

- The welfare of all adults at risk in our care comes first.
- If anyone has a concern about an adult at risk they should act immediately following our safeguarding procedures.
- The relevant Line Manager and nominated adult safeguarding lead should always be available to deal with concerns raised by staff, and there should be people who are trained to deputise in their absence.
- Safe recruitment practices should be followed

Health for All will continue to follow existing statutory adult safeguarding guidance.

### **Safe recruitment**

Despite the pandemic restrictions, safer recruitment principles will be followed at all times. All new staff will be DBS checked. Only suitable people will be recruited to work or volunteer with adults at risk. Health for All will do this during the pandemic by following our established practices in:

- shortlisting
- interviews
- vetting and barring checks
- induction and training

## **Recognising when adults at risk and their families need support**

Changes to ways of working, such as contacting adults at risk and their families/carers on the phone and by video calling, may bring new information to light about their home situation. Families may also experience new challenges during the pandemic, for example income loss, mental health problems, family conflict and difficulty getting food.

Managers will make sure staff and volunteers know what to do if they are concerned that an adult at risk or their family/carer are struggling to cope.

Set out how to liaise with multi-agency partners during the pandemic to ensure that adults at risk and their families/carers have the support they need. Referrals may need to be made to Adult Social Care or other relevant services.

## **Online safety, domestic abuse and mental health**

Online technology is invaluable for enabling people to keep in touch with friends and feel connected with the outside world. But changes in online behaviour can make adults at risk vulnerable to online abuse. Staff should follow Health for All's safeguarding policy and report any incident in line with statutory guidance if this is the case.

During this intense period of social distancing where families are spending more time together, staff will refer back to Health For All's domestic violence procedures regularly due to the heightened risk of domestic abuse.

Health for All recognises that the mental health of adults at risk who we support may suffer during the pandemic. Staff and volunteers should consider what can be put in place to help.

Parents' and carer's mental health will also be affected during the pandemic. Consider how this will affect people you work with and what support they need.

## **What to do if you are concerned for the safety of an adult at risk**

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If you suspect that an adult we support is being, or is at risk of being significantly harmed as a result of abuse or neglect, you must report this **immediately**.

**Practitioners** should :

- Discuss your concerns in the first instance with your line manager or **Safeguarding Lead** if you are unsure if they are suffering significant harm
- **During office hours** (9.00am – 5.00pm) call Adult Social Care 0113 2224401
- **Out of office hours** (evenings, weekends and bank holidays) call 0113 3780644
- If you believe an individual is in **immediate danger** and at risk of harm call the police on 999

### **Training**

All training requests should be initially discussed with line manager.

For more information regarding training offered by Leeds Safeguarding Adults Board: 0113 2476925

[www.leadssafeguardingadults.org.uk](http://www.leadssafeguardingadults.org.uk)