

Foresight Gardening Enterprises CIC

Safeguarding Policy

1) Introduction

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility – to report concerns, NOT to decide whether it is or is not abuse.

The fundamental principle that underpins this policy, applying to all Foresight Gardening Enterprises CIC activity, is that all children and vulnerable adults have the right to live their lives free from violence, fear and abuse.

This policy sets out the aims and responsibilities of Foresight Gardening Enterprises CIC in terms of the protection of children and vulnerable adults. It is designed to help Foresight Gardening Enterprises CIC recognize and respond to cases of abuse, in particular to:

- Increase awareness of issues concerning abuse
- Reduce and prevent incidences of abuse
- Respond quickly and sensitively to suspicions or disclosed incidents of abuse

2) Responsibilities

Foresight Gardening Enterprises CIC will:

- Ensure there are procedures in place to enable the reporting of concerns
- Ensure that one of the Directors will have Safeguarding training
- Ensure all staff and Authorised Representatives are able to identify signs and symptoms of abuse and understand reporting procedures

3) Information Sharing

All vulnerable people have the right to expect that information given to Foresight Gardening Enterprises CIC will be treated with care and in confidence.

In order to protect children and vulnerable adults, it may be necessary to share information which could be regarded as confidential in other circumstances. Foresight Gardening Enterprises CIC will need to justify why they are sharing information with another agency. However, the duty to protect an individual will in most cases outweigh the need to adhere to data protection and to maintain confidentiality. (It is the policy of Foresight Gardening Enterprises CIC that all staff and members engaged in Foresight Gardening Enterprises CIC activity should familiarize themselves with the principles of data protection.)

4) Mental Capacity

Foresight Gardening Enterprises CIC recognizes that it is the right of adults who have capacity to make their own choices, irrespective of how unwise Foresight Gardening Enterprises CIC may consider that decision to be. Foresight Gardening Enterprises CIC accepts the definition of mental capacity as defined in the Mental Capacity ACT 2005 unless a person's apparent comprehension of a situation gives rise to doubt.

5) Definitions

Abuse

'Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons. 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 vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which he or she has not consented, or cannot consent. Abuse can occur in any relationship and result in significant harm to, or exploitation of, the person subjected to it'. (*Department of Health, March 2000*)

Child

A child is defined as anyone under the age of 18

Vulnerable Adult

A vulnerable adult is defined as someone aged 18 or over, who:

i) is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and

ii) is or maybe unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation

Temporary Vulnerability

It should be considered that under the '*Protection of Freedoms Act 2012*' the term 'vulnerable' may be applied to adults for periods of time and for specific situations. (An adult in hospital 'may' be vulnerable for the period of their recovery; or an adult with Dementia 'may' only be vulnerable in regards to a specific area of their life). Safeguarding arrangements that do not take this into consideration may breach the adult's right to a private life.

6) Safe Recruitment

Recruitment and selection of Foresight Gardening Enterprises CIC staff and Authorised Representatives will include clear statements relating to Foresight Gardening Enterprises CIC's commitment to safeguarding.

Review Date: May 2016