



The Recovery Group

Welfare & Safeguarding Policy

Reviewed and edited:	July 2024
Next review date:	July 2025

Introduction

The Recovery Group are committed to ensuring that all members can participate in activities and events in an enjoyable and safe environment. All children and adults at risk are entitled to a duty of care and to be protected from abuse. This document outlines the groups's approach, responsibilities and policy & procedures to safeguarding of children and adults at risk.

Roles and Responsibilities

All group members have responsibility to uphold the Welfare and Safeguarding policies and procedures, to adhere to good practice and to respond to any safeguarding concerns.

The Recovery Group will appoint a Safeguarding Lead to advise and support the Group and its leaders in implementing welfare policies and procedures and to support everyone in adhering to codes of conduct and good practice.

The Welfare and Safeguarding policy will be actively promoted to members, and is published on the group's website.

Child Safeguarding

What to do if concerned

If anyone in the group is worried or concerned about anyone under 18, who you think is being abused or neglected, or that a child and their family need help and support, then they must immediately inform a group leader. Group leaders will inform the Safeguarding Lead.

Liverpool City Council are also able to offer support:

For concerns about a child at risk please contact children's social care on 0151 459 2606.

For all urgent concerns or if you believe a criminal offence has been committed you can contact Merseyside Police on 0151 709 6010 or 101.

In an Emergency always dial 999.

How to respond to a disclosure

Do not:

1. Probe for more information than is offered
2. Speculate or make assumptions
3. Show shock or distaste
4. Make comments about the person against whom the allegations have been made
5. Make promises or agree to keep secrets
6. Give a guarantee of confidentiality

All suspicions and disclosures must be reported appropriately. It is acknowledged that strong emotions can be aroused particularly in cases of possible sexual abuse or where there is a misplaced loyalty to a friend or colleague.

If a concern is raised about an adult's behaviour towards a child during a run or event then we will act. We as a group cannot allow anyone to act inappropriately towards a child, this includes shouting, bullying encouraging children to run separately and only ever with them etc.

Adult Safeguarding

When it comes to safeguarding vulnerable adults there are a number of significant differences to safeguarding children but the principles remain the same. The main differences include the fact that the Mental Capacity Act comes into play and what defines a vulnerable adult.

The reporting of concerns procedures at Liverpool City Council are here.

[Professionals: Report an adult safeguarding concern - Liverpool City Council](#)

A Vulnerable adult or Adult at Risk (AR) as it is now named can broadly be defined as follows;

“a person over the age of 18 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 him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation”.

It is not our job at the group to decide whether the person is vulnerable or whether they should be receiving services and even if the person we were

worried about does for example have a learning disability or mental health problem it doesn't necessarily mean they are vulnerable in that instance as the persons capacity around that issue comes into play.

For concerns about an adult please call adult social care on 0151 459 2606.

Further guidance

One of Social Services most important tasks is to protect vulnerable people from harm and abuse. If a vulnerable adult is harmed and cannot protect themselves we call this adult abuse. Abuse can happen in many different places such as:

- someone's own home
- In a care home
- In a hospital
- In a day centre
- In a public place

The abuse can be of different types such as:

- Physical abuse – being hit or slapped.
- Emotional abuse – being threatened or bullied, or someone else making decisions for you.
- Financial abuse – having money or property stolen, being tricked out of benefits.
- Neglect – not being given enough to eat or drink; being given the wrong medication.
- Sexual abuse – being touched or kissed when it is not wanted, being raped or made to listen to sexual comments.
- Discrimination – ignoring religious beliefs, comments or jokes about someone's race or disability.

If you are worried that someone is being abused you need to share your worries with someone who can help.

Information that will need to be shared can include:

- **Why you are concerned** -What type of abuse do you feel has occurred or is at risk of occurring.
- **Why you believe the individual has care and support needs** - We refer to this as the nature of the individual's vulnerability which helps us to identify the area of need which may relate to a disability, physical or

mental health, frailty or due to a sensory impairment, for example. These needs may not currently be met by the council or other organisation, and can include individuals who have informal arrangements in place.

- **Whether the individual is aware that you are contacting adult social care, their views in relation to this and what they would like to happen as a result** - Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) is central to what we and partner agencies do to safeguard and protect adults at risk. This means the individual is placed at the centre and their views and wishes are at the heart of what action is taken and you should discuss this with them at the earliest opportunity and before you report a concern to us.
- **If you have not discussed the referral, your reasons for not doing so** - We appreciate there are exceptional circumstances when this may not be appropriate, for example, if by doing so would place the individual at greater risk.
- **Personal details** - The name, date of birth and address of the adult at risk.
- **Family details** - Whether anyone lives with them including children, relatives or carers and, where possible, any contact details.
- **Help and support** - If they're getting help from any other organisation.
- **GP information** - The individual's GP details and address if known.
- **Alleged perpetrators** - Any known details of alleged perpetrators.

All worries will be taken seriously. Group leaders will be sensitive and respect your confidence. Information may be shared with others, including the police if it is necessary to protect any vulnerable person. You will be told if this is going to happen.

Equality

The Recovery Group is committed to eliminating discrimination whether by reason of gender, sexual orientation, marital status, race, nationality, ethnic origin, colour, religion or belief, ability or disability and to encourage equal opportunities.

The Recovery Group is also committed to promoting equality by treating people fairly and with respect, by recognising that inequalities may exist, by taking steps to address them and by providing access and opportunities for all members of the community.

The aim of this policy is to ensure that everyone is treated fairly and with respect and that The Recovery Group is equally accessible to all.

The Recovery Group will not tolerate harassment, bullying, abuse or victimisation of an individual. This includes sexual or racially based harassment or other discriminatory behaviour, whether physical or verbal. The Recovery Group will work to ensure that such behaviour is met with appropriate action in whatever context it occurs. We are committed to the development of a programme of ongoing training and awareness raising

events and activities in order to promote the eradication of discrimination within the group and within running.

The Recovery Group requires all members to abide to these policies and the requirements of the relevant equalities legislation.

Complaints and grievance

We have a clear and unequivocal policy and procedure on how we deal with complaints (both internal and external) and grievances. This includes how we respond on social media and in person. Information regarding this can be requested as required.