

SAFEGUARDING

Introduction

This policy applies to all Trustees, Volunteers and anyone acting on behalf of the Cwmdru Water Undertaking (CWU).

CWU is committed to best safeguarding practice and to uphold the rights of all to live a life free from harm, abuse, exploitation and neglect.

Trustees do not believe that there is a substantial risk of abuse of either children or vulnerable adults as a result of CWU's activities. However, children and vulnerable adults are consumers of water provided through the CWU network. Having a safeguarding policy, actively implemented, is therefore necessary.

CWU Trustees recognise that there is a legal framework within which all organisations should work to safeguard adults and children who have needs for their care and support and for protecting those who are unable to take action to protect themselves. Trustees will act in accordance with the relevant safeguarding legislation and with local statutory safeguarding procedures.

Scope of the Policy

The aim of this policy is to ensure both:

- the safety of vulnerable adults and children by outlining clear procedures for handling safeguarding issues
- that all CWU Trustees and volunteers are clear about their safeguarding responsibilities.

Definitions

A ***Vulnerable Adult*** is a person aged 18 or over who is, or may be, in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness, and is, or may be, unable to take care of themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

A ***Child*** is defined as a person under the age of 18. Exceptions to this are: Children who are placed in local authority care are usually classed as children until 21, and those with special needs are regarded as children while aged under 25.

What is abuse?

CWU believes that a child or vulnerable adult should never experience abuse or exploitation of any kind.

Abuse can take a variety of forms.

Children. The abuse can typically be categorised as: physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological and emotional abuse

Vulnerable Adults. Although the forms of abuse are the same for vulnerable adults as they are for children, the definitions may alter slightly, with additional forms of abuse which may be relevant to vulnerable adults. The abuse can typically be categorised as: physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological/emotional abuse, financial or material abuse, neglect or acts of omission, discriminatory abuse, institutional abuse.

Implementing this policy

CWU will ensure that all Trustees and Volunteers are aware of these safeguarding procedures, and that they acknowledge that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

Everyone who has dealings with CWU should be made to feel safe and Trustees and Volunteers of CWU should ensure that they:

- Treat children and adults with respect
- Listen and take into account everyone's views
- Take concerns about individual welfare issues seriously and, where there are concerns, take the appropriate action set out below

CWU Trustees and Volunteers will not:

- Permit abusive behaviour
- Have inappropriate physical or verbal contact with others
- Deliberately place themselves or others in a compromising situation
- Let suspicion, disclosure or allegations go unrecorded or unreported.

On occasions, CWU Trustees or Volunteers may have valid reason to engage with children. On all occasions, contact should occur in the presence of a parent, guardian, teacher or group leader who retains primary responsibility for the welfare of the child. That does not remove the responsibility of CWU Trustees and Volunteers to implement this policy, or take action when concerns arise.

When concerns arise

If there is concern regarding safeguarding, this should be brought to the attention of the designated Safeguarding Trustee, who is Paul Silk. This should not delay the reporting of the concern to the relevant statutory authorities who have a legal duty to act, see below.

CWU Trustees should not act as investigators or assessors of the concerns or allegations, but should ensure that these suspicions or allegations are reported without delay.

If the local children's or adults' safeguarding services are contacted, they will record concerns and follow them up. Concerns should not be discussed with anyone outside these teams and a note should be taken of the date, time and person with whom the concerns were discussed.

Emergency procedures

Powys County Council advise that the following process should be followed if you see or hear someone being harmed or abused, or if someone has told you they are being harmed or abused. CWU expect that Trustees and volunteers will follow these steps.

In an emergency, don't wait - call 999.

- Do get medical help if they have been hurt
- Do call the police if you suspect a crime
- Do listen and reassure the victim
- Do preserve evidence (the police will tell you about this)
- Don't push for information about what happened

Powys County Council 01597 827666 (office hours) 0845 054 4847 (out of hours)

Paul Silk (Safeguarding Trustee) 07713566581