ELS Safeguarding Adults

Ealing Liberal Synagogue Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

February 2024

**Our safeguarding policy**

This policy applies to all staff, ELS governors, volunteers or anyone working with vulnerable adults on behalf of ELS as well as all members of the synagogue. ELS believes that adults with care and support needs should never experience abuse of any kind. We are committed to practice in a way that protects them.

**The purpose of this policy is:**

• to promote the safeguarding of vulnerable adults with care and support needs

• to provide staff and volunteers with the principles that guide our approach to safeguarding

**Adult Safeguarding**

ELS is committed to safeguarding adults and protecting them from harm. Abuse can occur within all communities. Adults with care and support needs can be abused in any section of our society. Adults with care and support needs may be abused by family members, family friends, peers, community members, professionals and carers and by strangers. Adults with care and support needs may raise concerns or allegations of abuse to ELS staff or members, as trusted adults within their communities. Safeguarding is the responsibility of everyone. They should report any disclosure, allegation or concern regarding safeguarding adults to the Lead for safeguarding.

**Who is included under the heading 'vulnerable adult?'**

An adult (person aged 18 or over) who by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness is unable to take care of himself or herself, or protect himself or herself against significant harm. This could include people with learning disabilities, mental health problems, older people and people with a physical disability or impairment. There may be additional factors, such as, physical frailty, chronic illness, sensory impairment, challenging behaviour, drug or alcohol problems, social or emotional problems.

**Legal framework**

This policy has been drawn up on the basis of law and any relevant guidance that seeks to protect adults with care and support needs, namely:

Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 requires that each local authority must make whatever enquiries it thinks necessary (or cause others to do so) if it believes an adult (18 and over) has needs for care and support, is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect and is unable to protect himself or herself against it, to enable it (the local authority) to decide whether any action should be taken in the adult's case… and, if so, what and by whom.

The vulnerable adult may lack capacity. If he or she has been determined to lack capacity, there may be another person who holds a Lasting Power of Attorney and is allowed to make decisions on the vulnerable adult's behalf-there are two types of LPA: 'Health and Welfare' and 'Property and Financial Affairs.'

**We recognise that:**

• safeguarding is the responsibility of the whole synagogue community.

• all vulnerable adults, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity, have a right to equal protection from all types of harm or abuse. (see Appendix - Types of Abuse and what to look out for)

**Dealing with concerns or allegations raised by a vulnerable adult**

If you are concerned about an imminent risk, please call 999.

Receive:

- Listen to the person

- If you are shocked by what they are saying, try not to show it

- Take what they say seriously

- Accept what the child/young person says

Reassure:

- Stay calm and reassure the person they have done the right thing in talking to you

- Be honest so do not make promises you cannot keep

- *Do not promise confidentiality*

- Acknowledge how hard it must have been for the person to tell you what happened

React:

- React to the person only as far as it is necessary for you to establish

whether or not you need to refer this matter, but do not interrogate them for full

details

- Do not ask leading questions

- Explain what you have to do next and to whom you have to talk

Record:

- Make some brief notes at the time and write them up more fully as soon as possible

- Take care to record timing, setting and personnel as well as what was said

- Be objective in your recording - include statements and observable things rather than your interpretations or assumptions

Refer:

- Pass this information on immediately to the Designated Lead for safeguarding Vulnerable Adults. it is your duty to refer this information – you cannot keep it a secret.

- The Designated Safeguarding Lead will then decide whether a formal referral needs to be

made. The DSL may seek advice from the local social services team as to whether a formal referral should be made or whether there is a different and more helpful course of action.

- If you are concerned about an adult, you can contact Ealing Adult Social Care on:

- Telephone: 0208 825 8000
- Email sscallcentre@ealing.gov.uk

We are committed to reviewing our policy and good practice regularly.

Designated Safeguarding lead for vulnerable adults:

Name: Rabbi Dr Miri Lawrence ……Signature… ……

Phone/email 07841 107890 mirilawrence@hotmail.com

Trustee for safeguarding and child protection

Name: Richard Harper

Phone/email: .07940 593996 r.harper@zen.co.uk

**Appendix - Types of abuse and what to look out for**

https://www.ealing.gov.uk/info/201073/health_and_adult_social_care/147/safeguarding/2

Types of abuse and exploitation

Abuse is the violation of an individual's human or civil rights by any other person or persons. Abuse can range from the small act of not treating someone with proper respect to extreme punishment or torture. Abuse can occur within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust and where action, or lack of action, causes harm or distress. The most common forms of abuse are:

- **Physical abuse** includes hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint and force-feeding.

- **Sexual abuse** includes rape and sexual assault, or sexual acts to which the adult at risk has not consented, or could not consent, or was pressured into consenting.

- **Psychological abuse** includes emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, isolation, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, harassment, verbal abuse, threats or bribes.

- **Neglect and acts of omission:** failure to provide appropriate care (e.g. food, medication, clothing, heating, cleanliness and hygiene) and denying religious or cultural needs.

- **Financial or material abuse** includes theft, fraud or using a person's money, possessions or property without their consent.

- **Discriminatory abuse** includes racism, sexism, ageism and discrimination based on a person's disability or sexual orientation.

- **Domestic abuse** includes domestic violence or abuse can be characterised by any of the indicators of abuse outlined in this briefing relating to:

  - psychological
  - physical
  - sexual
  - financial
  - emotional

- **Modern slavery** includes:

  - Human trafficking
  - Forced labour
  - Domestic servitude

- Sexual exploitation, such as escort work, prostitution and pornography
- Debt bondage – being forced to work to pay off debts that realistically they never will be able to.

• **Discriminatory abuse** includes:

- unequal treatment based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation
- Verbal abuse, derogatory remarks or inappropriate use of language related to a protected characteristic
- Denying access to communication aids, not allowing access to an interpreter, signer or lip-reader
- Harassment or deliberate exclusion on the grounds of a protected characteristic
- Denying basic rights to healthcare, education, employment and criminal justice relating to a protected characteristic
- Substandard service provision relating to a protected characteristic

• **Organisational abuse** includes:

- Discouraging visits or the involvement of relatives or friends
- Run-down or overcrowded establishment
- Authoritarian management or rigid regimes
- Lack of leadership and supervision
- Insufficient staff or high turnover resulting in poor quality care
- Abusive and disrespectful attitudes towards people using the service
- Inappropriate use of restraints
- Lack of respect for dignity and privacy
- Failure to manage residents with abusive behaviour
- Not providing adequate food and drink, or assistance with eating
- Not offering choice or promoting independence
- Misuse of medication
- Failure to provide care with dentures, spectacles or hearing aids
- Not taking account of individuals' cultural, religious or ethnic needs
- Failure to respond to abuse appropriately
- Interference with personal correspondence or communication

- Failure to respond to complaints

- **Self-neglect**

- Lack of self-care to an extent that it threatens personal health and safety
- Neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings
- Inability to avoid self-harm
- Failure to seek help or access services to meet health and social care needs
- Inability or unwillingness to manage one's personal affairs

**Who abuses and neglects adults?**

Anyone can carry out abuse or neglect, including:

- Spouses/partners
- Other family members
- Neighbours
- Friends
- Acquaintances
- Local residents
- People who deliberately exploit adults they perceive as vulnerable to abuse
- Paid staff or professionals
- Volunteers and strangers.