

Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity

POLICY ON PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

1. Who are Vulnerable Adults

Any adult residing in the almshouses is potentially vulnerable as is every citizen in the land. This Policy and procedures covers abuse of any vulnerable adult residing in the almshouses by anyone in a position of trust with them friends, relatives, trustees, officers, a managing agent, contractors, or representatives of public, private, independent, charitable or third sector services.

2. Statement of Policy

The Trustees and Officers of Buckingham Almshouses and Welfare Charity take the view, both corporately and individually, that every resident in the almshouses has the absolute right to live free from abuse. Trustees, officers and agents will always work to prevent abuse wherever possible, and where preventative measures fail, to deal sensitively and effectively with incidents of abuse. Where perceived necessary, members of the trustee body, their officers or agents will be trained and supported in recognising, and dealing with, incident of abuse. In doing so, they will always conduct themselves with respect for the dignity, privacy, independence and individuality of the victim or victims.

3. Definition of Abuse

Abuse is mistreatment by any other person or persons that violates someone's human or civil rights.

Abuse can happen anywhere - in the person's own home, in a hospital or care home, in the street.

Abuse can consist of a simple act or repeated acts. It can vary from neglecting the person to treating someone with disrespect in a way which significantly affects their quality of life or limits their ability to access opportunities. It can also be behaviour which causes actual physical harm or suffering.

Abuse can be either deliberate or the result of ignorance, lack of training, knowledge or understanding.

4. Forms of Abuse

Physical Abuse e.g. hitting, pushing, shaking, pinching, misusing medication, not giving adequate food or drink.

Sexual Abuse including unwanted touching and suggestive comments.

Psychological or Emotional Abuse such as threats, being deprived of social contact, humiliation, blaming, coercion, verbal abuse.

Financial or Material Abuse such as theft, fraud, misuse of property, possessions or benefits.

Neglect: including ignoring medical or physical care needs, withholding food or drink.

Discriminatory Abuse such as harassment based on race, sexuality or a person's disability, gender or religion and age discrimination.

All forms and types of abuse are unlawful. Perpetrators face prosecution by the Courts in the United Kingdom.

5. **What to do if Abuse is Suspected**

Depending upon the circumstances of the particular case:

- Make sure that the person being abused is not in immediate danger.
- If necessary seek medical treatment as a matter of urgency.
- Inform the Trustees/Clerk immediately.
- Failing this, contact the Social Services or Community Mental Health Team.

6. **Responsibility**

Any resident, who feels that they are being abused in any manner, should immediately contact the Charity, its officers or agents. The Charity will then accept the responsibility for implementing its policy and procedures, in conjunction with other agencies, to resolve and seek the successful prosecution of the guilty party or parties.

Contact Numbers:

Secretary - 01908 563350 e-mail address – karen.phillips440@gmail.com

7. **Staff Training**

A short training session will be delivered from time to time by the appropriate person to all staff to reinforce understanding of the issues.