

**Subject:** Protection of Vulnerable Adults  
Policy

**Status:** For Publication

**Report to:** Policy Overview and Scrutiny  
Committee

**Date:** 11 August 2009

**Report of:** Head of People and Policy

**Portfolio**

**Holder:** Finance and Resources

**Key Decision:** No

Forward Plan

General Exception

Special Urgency

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform and consult with members of Policy Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the new Vulnerable Adults Policy, attached as Appendix 1.

**2. CORPORATE PRIORITIES**

2.1 The matters discussed in this Policy impact directly on the following of the Council's corporate priorities and associated corporate objectives:-

- Delivering Quality Services to Customers
- Keeping Our Borough Clean, Green and Safe
- Encouraging Healthy and Respectful Communities

**3. RISK ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 Failure to have a policy could result in a vulnerable person being left without support.

**4. BACKGROUND AND OPTIONS**

4.1 **Findings**

4.1(i) The Policy includes information on:-

- Who is a vulnerable adult?

A vulnerable adult is a person aged eighteen years or over who may be in need of community care services. The reason for this could be because they are unable to take care of themselves, or protect themselves from harm or from being exploited. This may be because they have a mental health problem, a disability, a sensory impairment, are old and frail, or have some form of illness.

- What constitutes as abuse?

Abuse is the violation of a person's human and civil rights by another person or other persons. Abuse can happen anywhere and in a variety of different forms as the result of calculated intent, carelessness or ignorance.

Forms of abuse include:-

- Physical Abuse – e.g. hitting, kicking, slapping, scalding, restraint, misuse of medication.
- Sexual Abuse – e.g. rape, sexual assault, sexual acts which the vulnerable adult has not or could not have consented to or was pressured into consenting.
- Psychological Abuse – e.g. emotional abuse, threats of harm, threats of abandonment, being deprived of social contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, pressuring, harassment, oppression, verbal abuse, isolation, being prevented from receiving support services.
- Financial or Material Abuse – e.g. theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance, misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- Neglect – e.g. ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to educational, health or social care services, withholding the necessities of life such as food, water, shelter, heating and medication.
- Discriminatory Abuse – e.g. abuse based on a person's race, gender, age, creed, sexual orientation, or a person's disability.

Who might be responsible for the abuse?

Vulnerable adults may be abused by a variety of people such as:-

- A relative or family member
  - A health worker, care worker, or other paid or volunteer worker
  - A friend
  - A neighbour or local resident
  - A service user
  - An occasional visitor or person providing a service
  - People who deliberately exploit vulnerable people
- What do you do if you are being abused or if you suspect that someone you know may be the victim of abuse?
  - What do you do if you come across someone who is vulnerable, in need or neglected?

- > Contacts
- > Useful Legislation

**COMMENTS FROM STATUTORY OFFICERS:**

**5. SECTION 151 OFFICER**

5.1 There are no immediate financial considerations attached to the recommendations within this report.

**6. MONITORING OFFICER**

6.1 There are no immediate legal considerations attached to the recommendations within this report.

**7. HEAD OF PEOPLE AND POLICY ( ON BEHALF OF HEAD OF PAID SERVICE)**

7.1 There are no immediate human resource implications attached to the recommendations within this report.

**8. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

8.1 Recommend adoption of the Policy.

8.2 Use as a guide for the protection of vulnerable adults.

**9. CONSULTATION CARRIED OUT**

9.1 Executive Management Team

**10. COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is an Community Impact Assessment required Yes / ~~No~~

Is an Community Impact Assessment attached ~~Yes~~ / No

**11. BIODIVERSITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment required ~~Yes~~ / No

Is a Biodiversity Impact Assessment attached ~~Yes~~ / No

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Background Papers	
Document	Place of Inspection
Vulnerable Adults Policy	Appendix 1