



## **Cary Cares: Safeguarding and DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service) Policy**

**This policy refers to and should be read in conjunction with all other Cary Cares policy documents.**

**1.1 Definition.** A 'child or young person' is anyone under the age of 18 years. A 'vulnerable adult' is someone who by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness is unable to take care of themselves or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation. An 'adult' for the purposes of this policy is anyone over 18 years of age.

**1.2 Scope of policy.** Cary Cares is a service provided to adults, with the recognition that children and young people may live within the families which it supports. Therefore, this policy predominately focuses upon adults over the age of 18, but within the context that awareness is made of appropriate safeguarding responses where children or young people at risk live within families whom Cary Cares has contact with.

## **2 Introduction**

2.1 Statutory guidance in England defines adult safeguarding as:

Protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.

2.2 A local authority (by being reported to) must act when it has 'reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there):

2.2.1 has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),

- 2.2.2 is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.' (Care Act 2014, section 42)
- 2.3 So safeguarding is for people who, because of issues such as dementia, learning disability, mental ill-health or substance abuse, have care and support needs that may make them more vulnerable to abuse or neglect.
- 2.4 The volunteers who work for Cary Cares will develop an understanding and awareness of the principles of safeguarding and if they have any concerns regarding the situation of a vulnerable adult, (and children or young people at risk within a family they are supporting) will approach them confidentially to discuss this further, advise them appropriately, and/or report accordingly. Formal reporting will be made by a suitably trained and named nominated trustee within the Charity to the relevant service in the local authority.

**Adults at Risk:**

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/report-an-adult-at-risk/>

**Children at Risk:**

<https://www.somerset.gov.uk/education-and-families/report-a-child-at-risk/>

The local authority has systems, procedures and protocols which follow national legislation and guidance.

- 2.5 In an emergency the police should be contacted by dialling 999
- 2.6 Somerset Safeguarding Adults Board  
<https://ssab.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk/protecting-adults/>  
Provides a range of valuable information regarding the safeguarding of adults, including definitions and forms of abuse and spotting signs of abuse and neglect, including local and national protocols.

### **3 DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service)**

- 3.1 What is a DBS check?  
A Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check is a process to find out whether someone has a criminal record. This is a national service in England.
- 3.2 Why carry out a DBS check?

The aim of a DBS check is to provide extra reassurance to the public who may contact Cary Cares when, an individual is direct or substantial contact with them, in either their homes or community.

### 3.3 Who carries out a DBS check?

The trustees of Cary Cares will ensure that any volunteer who has direct and close individual access to members of the public undergoes the most appropriate level of check (set out by the Disclosure and Barring Service) according to their role.

### **Monitoring and reviewing**

This policy will be reviewed annually from the date of ratification by the trustees. Cary Cares' board of trustees is responsible for monitoring the effectiveness of this policy and will review the implementation of it on a regular basis. They will assess its suitability, adequacy, and effectiveness.

Any need for improvements will be applied as soon as possible. Volunteers are encouraged to offer their feedback on this policy if they have any suggestions for how it may be improved. Feedback of this nature should be addressed to the board of trustees.