

TodWalkers

Safeguarding Policy

TodWalkers is an open membership organisation which is managed by a committee elected from the membership. It is a walkers' action group, with projects in creating, designing, testing, publishing and promoting walks around Todmorden, and ancillary activities. It monitors footpaths, and contributes to the wider marketing of the Upper Calder Valley as a destination for walkers. The TodWalkers committee is the steering group which manages the status of Todmorden as a 'Walkers are Welcome' town. There are no paid employees in TodWalkers, and it does not lead walks, and in general has no direct contact with the community except through its members. Members may attend any TodWalkers committee meeting as well as being invited to the Annual General Meeting, and members may participate in any TodWalkers project, or initiate their own TodWalkers project.

TodWalkers position with regard to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults and young people is that the members

have a moral duty to be aware of the sort of issues which could affect other members, which might require action, and

understand what action a TodWalkers member should take if they are concerned.

Vulnerable adults/ young people at risk of abuse

An 'adult at risk' means adults who need community care services because of mental or other disability, age or illness, and who are, or may be unable to take care of themselves against harm or exploitation.

The characteristics of adult abuse can take a number of forms and cause adults at risk to suffer pain, fear and distress reaching well beyond the time of the actual incident(s). Adults at risk may be too afraid or embarrassed to raise any complaint. They may be reluctant to discuss their concerns with other people or unsure who to trust or approach with their worries. There may be some situations where the person is unaware that they are being abused or have difficulty in communicating this information to others.

It is acknowledged that significant numbers of adults at risk are abused and it is important that TodWalkers has this policy and a set of procedures to follow to prevent abuse.

In order to implement the policy TodWalkers will work:

- to promote the freedom and dignity of the person who has or is experiencing abuse
- to promote the rights of all people to live free from abuse and coercion
- to ensure the safety and well being of people who do not have the capacity to decide how they want to respond to abuse that they are experiencing
- to manage in a way which promotes safety and prevents abuse
- recruit any staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made

- provide effective management for any staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- will ensure that all management committee members, any staff, volunteers and carers/families are familiar with this policy and procedures
- will work with other agencies within the framework of the Calderdale Safeguarding Adults Board Policy and Procedures
- will act within its confidentiality policy and will **usually** gain permission from members before sharing information about them with another agency; the person in danger could be the person making the disclosure or other adults at risk
- will inform members that where a person is in danger, a child is at risk or a crime has been committed then a decision may be taken to pass information to another agency without the member's consent
- will make a referral to the Gateway to Care as appropriate
- will endeavour to keep up to date with national developments relating to preventing abuse and welfare of adults
- will ensure that the Designated Named Person understands his/her responsibility to refer incidents of adult abuse to the relevant statutory agencies (Police/Adult Social care)

1. Preventing abuse

TodWalkers is committed to putting in place safeguards and measures to reduce the likelihood of abuse taking place within its membership and that all those involved within TodWalkers will be treated with respect.

TodWalkers is committed to safer recruitment policies and practices for any paid staff. This includes, where appropriate, DBS (disclosure & barring) checks, and ensuring references are taken up.

2. Recognising the signs and symptoms of abuse

TodWalkers is committed to ensuring that all members receive information about safeguarding and the nature of adult abuse. TodWalkers will ensure that the Designated Named Person and committee members have access to training around Safeguarding Adults.

'Abuse'

Abuse is mistreatment by any other person or persons that violates a person's human and civil rights. The abuse can vary, from treating someone with disrespect in a way that significantly affects the person's quality of life, to causing actual physical suffering.

Forms of abuse can include:

- Physical abuse such as: hitting, pushing, pinching, shaking, misuse of medication, scalding, inappropriate restraint, hair-pulling.
- Sexual abuse such as: rape or sexual assault; sexual acts to which the adult at risk has not or could not have consented, or to which they were pressurised into consenting or encouraging people to watch inappropriate materials.

- Psychological or emotional abuse such as: threats of harm or abandonment; deprivation of social or any other form of contact; humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, or harassment; verbal abuse; prevention from receiving services or support.
- Financial or material abuse such as: theft; fraud or exploitation; pressure in connection with wills, property, or inheritance; misuse of property, possessions or benefits.
- Neglect or acts of omission such as: ignoring medical or physical care needs; preventing access to health, social care, or educational services; withholding the necessities of life, such as food, drink, or heating.
- Discriminatory abuse such as that based upon a person's race, sexuality, or disability; any other forms of harassment or slurs.
- Domestic violence - all forms of abuse can be experienced in a family setting by a partner, family member, or with someone with whom there is a relationship.
- Institutional abuse and poor practice - disrespect and unethical practice, ill treatment and professional misconduct.

People who behave abusively come from all backgrounds and walks of life. They may be doctors, nurses, social workers, advocates, staff members, volunteers or others in a position of trust. They may also be relatives, friends, neighbours, or people who use the same services as the person experiencing abuse.

3. Designated Named Person for safeguarding adults

TodWalkers will appoint an individual who is responsible for dealing with any Safeguarding Adult concerns, this will be the designated safeguarding lead. In their absence, then management committee members, or other members should contact Gateway to Care directly on 0845 11 11 103

The roles and responsibilities of the named person(s) are:

- to ensure that members are aware of what they should do and who they should go to if they have concerns that an adult at risk may be experiencing, or has experienced abuse or neglect.
- to ensure that concerns are acted on, clearly recorded and referred appropriately.
- to follow up any referrals and ensure the issues have been addressed.
- to reinforce the utmost need for confidentiality and to ensure that members are adhering to good practice with regard to confidentiality and security.
- to ensure that members working directly with other members who have experienced abuse, or who are experiencing abuse, are well supported .

4. Responding to people who have experienced or are experiencing abuse

TodWalkers recognises that it has a duty to act on reports, or suspicions of abuse or neglect. It also acknowledges that taking action in cases of adult abuse is never easy.

How to respond if you receive an allegation:

- Reassure the person concerned
- Listen to what they are saying
- Record what you have been told/witnessed as soon as possible
- Remain calm and do not show shock or disbelief
- Tell them that the information will be treated seriously
- Don't start to investigate or ask detailed or probing questions
- Don't promise to keep it a secret

If you witness abuse or abuse has just taken place the priorities will be:

- To call an ambulance if required
- To call the police if a crime has been committed
- To preserve evidence
- To keep yourself, and other members safe
- To inform the Designated Named Person in TodWalkers
- To record what happened in our secure safeguarding file

All situations of abuse or alleged abuse will be discussed with the Designated Named Person. If a member feels unable to raise this concern with the Designated Named Person (or they are implicated in the abuse) then concerns can be raised directly with Gateway To Care Direct on 0845 11 11 103. The alleged victim will be told that this will happen. This stage is called the **alert**.

If it is appropriate and there is consent from the individual, or there is a good reason to override consent, such as risk to others, a referral will be made to Gateway to Care.

If the individual experiencing abuse does not have capacity to consent a referral will be made without that person's consent, in their best interests.

The Designated Named Person may take advice at the above stage from Gateway to Care and/or the Safeguarding Adults Team and/or other advice giving organisations such as Police.

5. Raising a Safeguarding Adults Alert

All safeguarding adult concerns should be made by telephone to the Adult Social Care team via gate way to care Monday to Friday 9.00am till 5.00 pm

Gateway To Care

Phone: 0845 11 11 103

Available: Monday-Friday 9am-5pm

Safeguarding Adults Team

Phone: 01422 393804

Available: Monday – Friday 9am-5pm.

Please note that this is an advice service ONLY. All alerts should be raised with Gateway to Care Direct.

West Yorkshire Police

Safeguarding Unit 01422 337041

Hate & Mate crime and Domestic abuse are crimes, please seek advice from the Police Safeguarding team in the first instance then refer to Gateway to Care.

In an emergency situation outside of these times please contact the Emergency Duty team on 0845 11 11 137

You should ask to make a safeguarding adults alert.

Currently, the TodWalkers Designated Named Person is:

Penny Marrington

2 Castle View, Todmorden, OL14 6LN

Tel: 01706 819470: Mob: 07836 753957

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