

Safeguarding

Northampton U3A has a duty of care to its membership and a duty to safeguard people at risk

There is a duty to recognise abuse and what to do if there is a concern. It needs to be aware of the law and also guidance to safeguard those at risk of abuse

Elder Abuse can take various forms e.g. physical, psychological or emotional, sexual and financial abuse. It can also be the result of intentional or unintentional neglect. 65 is the age taken as the point when it would be considered elder abuse.

Causes for concern The member becomes withdrawn and uncommunicative, is tearful and/or distressed, is inadequately dressed for weather conditions and/or has dirty, unkempt clothing, appears to have no food or heating at home, has signs of injury or pain but is reluctant to give a reason

Abuse might be:

A single act or multiple/repeated acts

A failure to act appropriately

An individual being coerced into a financial or sexual arrangement which they did not or could not have consented to

A situation which is an abuse of trust including failure to meeting a duty of care

Safeguarding responsibilities

We all have a legal duty to report any concerns we may have about an adult at risk. If you do nothing, someone may continue to be harmed

Do not assume that someone else has already reported the matter

If you feel uneasy – seek advice

Where you feel that an individual is at risk of immediate harm you must report to the police immediately (999) followed by appropriate referral to the Local Authority

Next Steps

Make sure the individual is safe

Preserve any evidence

Explain who you will tell

Explain what will happen next

If you consider it an emergency report your concerns to the authorities

If additional support is needed contact National Office

Do not breach data protection

Keep a record of actions taken