



Safeguarding of Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy

Chichester Down Syndrome Support Group – (CDSSG)

Chichester Down Syndrome Support Group – (CDSSG) acknowledges the duty of care to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and vulnerable adults and is committed to ensuring safeguarding practice meets legislation, government guidance and CDSSG requirements.

1. Definition

A child is under the age of 18 (As defined in the United Nations Rights of the Child).

Vulnerable adults are people who are over 18 years of age and are getting or may need help and services to live independently in the community. Vulnerable adults may be unable to take care of themselves and unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation by other people.

Abuse can include: physical, financial, material, sexual, psychological, discriminatory, emotional and neglect. Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and can be perpetuated by anyone.

Volunteers, committee and trustees have a duty to identify abuse and report it.

We aim for all children and vulnerable adults to have a positive and enjoyable experience at CDSSG events in a safe environment with our volunteers and their parents/ carers present.

2. Support to volunteers and staff

The Committee & Trustees will support any volunteer who reports an incident of suspected or potential abuse.

In situations where volunteers and staff are the subject of an allegation of abuse, support will be offered by CDSSG and the necessary authorities will be advised/informed.

3. Suspicion of abuse

As part of our safeguarding policy CDSSG will promote and prioritise safety and wellbeing of children and vulnerable adults. Where abuse is suspected of a member, the appointed Safeguarding Lead; Sheila Higgins will:

- Ensure appropriate action is taken in the event of any incidents/ concerns of abuse and support the individual/s that raise concern.



- Ensure volunteers understand their responsibilities in respect of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

CHILDREN/ VULNERABLE ADULTS REMAIN THE PARENTS/ CARERS RESPONSIBILITY AT ALL CDSSG EVENTS.

VOLUNTEERS FOR CHICHESTER DOWN SYNDROME SUPPORT GROUP WILL WORK ALONGSIDE THEM

VOLUNTEERS MAY NOT BE NECESSARILY DBS ENGANCED CHECKED.

4. Confidentiality

Confidentiality is crucial to all our work and relationships. The CDSSG Confidentiality Policy should be adhered to except when the welfare of children and vulnerable adults is paramount and takes precedence over it. Any concerns relating to potential abuse of children and vulnerable adults should be reported.

5. Contact information

Allegation of the alleged abuse which occurred when the person is over 18 years old falls under the Protection of Vulnerable Adults and needs to be reported to West Sussex Social Services.

The West Sussex Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) may be contacted on 01403 229900 or via the online form found on the WSCC website.
<https://westsussex.local-offer.org/services/731>

The Safeguarding Lead, Sheila Higgins, may be contacted on 01243 863018

6. Policy and mandatory procedures

This policy and procedures are mandatory for all volunteers and members of CDSSG. Failure to comply with our policy and procedures will be addressed and may result in exclusion from the organisation.

7. Monitoring

The policy will be monitored annually or in the following circumstances

- Changes in legislation or government guidance
- As a result of any other significant change or event.

Signed by: *Sheila Higgins*..... CDSSG Chair

Dated 11. May 2021.

Date to be updated: January 2022 (Renewed annually)