

**TRINITY ACADEMY NEWCASTLE TRUST**

**SAFEGUARDING ADULT LEARNERS POLICY**

**Approved by Committee – December 2024  
On behalf of the Board**

**Next Review Date – December 2025**

## Policy Statement

This policy will enable Trinity Academy Newcastle Trust (The Trust) to demonstrate its commitment to keeping safe, adult learners at risk with whom it works alongside. The Trust acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.

It is important to have policy and procedures in place so that all managers, staff, volunteers, service users and carers, Board of Directors can work to prevent abuse and know what to do should a concern arise.

This Policy applies to all those working in, studying and visiting the Trust including learners, The Trust workforce, Board of Directors, volunteers and visitors to the Trust and, where relevant, contracted services such as signers, employers offering work placements, transportation companies and contractors with direct access to learners who may be adult learners at risk of harm.

This Policy and its accompanying procedures apply to adult learners at risk of harm.

The policy and procedures have been drawn up in order to enable the Trust to:

- promote good practice and work in a way that can prevent harm and abuse occurring;
- ensure that any allegations of abuse or suspicions are dealt with appropriately and the person experiencing abuse is supported; and
- stop abuse occurring.

The policy and procedures relate to the safeguarding of **adult learners at risk**. Adult learners at risk are defined as individuals aged over 18 who:

- have needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect. (Care Act, 2014)

It is acknowledged that significant numbers of adult learners at risk are abused and it is important that the Trust has a safeguarding adult's policy, a set of procedures to follow and puts in place preventative measures to try and reduce those numbers.

In order to implement the policy and procedure, the Trust will work to:

- stop abuse or neglect wherever possible;
- prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs;
- promote the wellbeing of the adult(s) at risk in safeguarding adults arrangements;
- safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live;
- promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned;
- raise awareness of safeguarding adults to ensure that everyone can play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect;
- provide information and support in accessible ways to help people understand the different types of abuse, how to stay safe and what to do to raise a concern about the safety or wellbeing of an adult; and
- address what caused the abuse or neglect.

## **The Trust will:**

- ensure that all managers, staff, volunteers, service users and carers and Board of Directors are familiar with this policy and associated procedures;
- work with other agencies within the framework of the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board Policy and Procedures, issued under Care Act 2014 statutory guidance;
- act within its confidentiality policy and will usually gain permission from service users before sharing information about them with another agency.
- pass information to the Local Authority when more than one person is at risk. For example: if the concern relates to a worker, volunteer or organisation who provides a service to adults with care and support needs or children;
- inform service users 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 service user's consent;
- make a safeguarding adults referral to the Local Authority as appropriate;
- endeavor to keep up to date with national developments relating to preventing abuse and welfare of adults;
- will ensure that the Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager (DASM) understands his/her responsibility to refer incidents of adult abuse to the relevant statutory agencies (Police/Local Authority).

The Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager in Trinity Solutions Academy and Trinity Post 16 Solutions Limited is Dan Shuttleworth

Contact Details -0191 2986950

They should be contacted for support and advice on implementing this policy and associated procedures.

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Newcastle's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures documents which are available at:

<https://www.newcastlesafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-adults/policy-procedures/>

This policy and associated procedures are kept electronically.

## **Procedures**

### **1. Introduction**

The Trust (Trinity Solutions Academy and Trinity Post 16 Solutions Limited) provides bespoke programmes of learning to learners aged 16-25 with learning difficulties and/or disabilities. These procedures have been designed to ensure the wellbeing and protection of any adult who accesses services provided by the Trust. The procedures recognise that adult abuse can be a difficult subject for workers to deal with. The Trust is committed to the belief that the protection of adult learners at risk from harm and abuse is everybody's responsibility and the aim of these procedures is to ensure that all managers, staff, volunteers, service users, carers and work experience providers, and Board of Directors act appropriately in response to any concern of adult abuse.

Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) have produced a Threshold Tool to assess potential risk

<https://www.newcastlesafeguarding.org.uk/resources/threshold-tool-guidance/>

Using the safeguarding adults risk threshold tool

The safeguarding adults risk threshold tool has been designed to consider both the vulnerability of the adult at risk, the seriousness of the abuse that is occurring, the impact of the abuse and the risk of it recurring.

Regular, low level concerns can amount to a far higher level of concern which then requires more in-depth investigation or assessment under safeguarding adults procedures. Each local area has an escalation policy in place to aid professional judgement in these circumstances. This means that a specified number of safeguarding adults concerns reported to the Local Authority in a specified timeframe will result in further action under safeguarding adults procedures. Please refer to each area's policy and procedure.

The tool is not designed in way in which further actions are determined by achieving a score or a specified number of ticks. It is there to provide guidance and key considerations for practitioners who are assessing and managing risk.

## **2. Preventing abuse**

The Trust is committed to putting in place safeguards and measures to reduce the likelihood of abuse taking place within the services it offers and that all those involved within the Trust will be treated with respect.

Therefore this policy needs to be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Equal Rights and Diversity
- Volunteers
- Complaints
- Whistle Blowing
- Confidentiality
- Disciplinary and Grievance
- Data Protection
- Recruitment and Selection
- Behaviour Policy
- PREVENT

The Trust is committed to safer recruitment policies and practices for paid staff and volunteers. This will include Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks for staff and volunteers, ensuring references are taken up and provision of adequate training on safeguarding adults.

The organisation will work within the current legal framework for referring staff or volunteers to the DBS who have harmed or pose a risk to vulnerable adults and/or children.

Information about safeguarding adults and the complaints policy will be available to service users and their carers/families.

## **3. Recognising the signs and symptoms of abuse**

The Trust is committed to ensuring that all managers, staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors undertake training to gain a basic awareness of the signs and symptoms of abuse. The Trust will ensure that the Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager and other members of relevant staff or

volunteers have access to higher levels of training around safeguarding adults provided by the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board.

The Trust will not be limited in their view of what constitutes abuse or neglect, as they can take many forms and the circumstances of an individual case will always be considered.

**Abuse includes:**

- **Discriminatory**

Including forms of harassment, bullying, slurs, isolation, neglect, denial of access to services or similar treatment; because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, religion or because someone is lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. This includes racism, sexism, ageism, homophobia or any other form of hate incident or crime.

- **Domestic abuse or violence**

Including an incident or a pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse, by someone who is, or has been, an intimate partner or family member regardless of gender or sexual orientation. This includes psychological/emotional, physical, sexual, financial abuse; so called 'honour' based violence, forced marriage or Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

- **Financial or material**

Including theft, fraud, internet scamming, exploitation, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

- **Modern slavery**

Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

- **Neglect and acts of omission**

Including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to access appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.

- **Organisational (sometimes referred to as institutional)**

Including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in a person's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

- **Physical**

Including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, burning, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.

- **Psychological (sometimes referred to as emotional)**

Including threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber-bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or support networks.

- **Sexual**

Including rape, indecent exposure, sexual assault, sexual acts, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting. It also includes sexual exploitation which is exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where the person receives “something” (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, mobile phones, cigarettes, gifts, money) or perceived friendship/relationship as a result of them performing, and/or another or others performing sexual acts.

- **Self-neglect**

Includes a person neglecting to care for their personal hygiene, health or surroundings; or an inability to provide essential food, clothing, shelter or medical care necessary to maintain their physical and mental health, emotional wellbeing and general safety. It includes behaviour such as hoarding.

## **Radicalisation and Extremism**

Since 2010, when the Government published the Prevent Strategy, there has been an awareness of the specific need to safeguard vulnerable young people and families from violent extremism. There have been several occasions both locally and nationally in which extremist groups have attempted to radicalise vulnerable children and young people to hold extreme views including views justifying political, religious, sexist or racist violence, or to steer them into a rigid and narrow ideology that is intolerant of diversity and leaves them vulnerable to future radicalisation

Abuse may be carried out deliberately or unknowingly. Abuse may be a single act or repeated acts.

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.

## **Online Abuse**

All of us are at risk of falling prey to online abuse or scams but those most vulnerable are at more risk of digital exploitation.

## **4. Designated Named Person for safeguarding adults**

The Trust has an appointed individual who is responsible for leading safeguarding adults work in the organisation. In their absence, a deputy will be available for managers, staff or volunteers to consult with. The Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager within Trinity Solutions Academy and Trinity Post 16 Solutions Limited:

Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager – Dan Shuttleworth  
Work Telephone number – 0191 2986950

Deputy Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager – Sarah Butler  
Work telephone number - 0191 2986950

Trust Head of Safeguarding and Inclusion - Mark Kennedy  
Work Telephone number - 0191 2986950

Should either of these named people be unavailable then managers, staff, volunteers, service users and carers and Board of Directors should contact Community Health and Social Care Direct directly. See below for contact details.

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

- ensure that all staff and volunteers 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;
- ensure that concerns are acted on, clearly recorded and referred to Community Health and Social Care Direct or to the allocated social worker/care manager where necessary;
- follow up any safeguarding adults referrals and ensure the issues have been addressed;
- manage and have oversight over individual complex cases involving allegations against an employee, volunteer, or student, paid or unpaid;
- consider any recommendations from the safeguarding adults process;
- reinforce the utmost need for confidentiality and to ensure that staff and volunteers are adhering to good practice with regard to confidentiality and security. This is because it is around the time that a person starts to challenge abuse that the risks of increasing intensity of abuse are greatest;
- ensure that staff and volunteers working directly with service users who have experienced abuse, or who are experiencing abuse, are well supported and receive appropriate supervision;
- ensure staff and volunteers are given support and afforded protection, if necessary, under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998: they will be dealt with in a fair and equitable manner and they will be kept informed of any action that has been taken and its outcome.

## **5. Responding to people who have experienced or are experiencing abuse**

The Trust 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.
- Do not start to investigate or ask detailed or probing questions.
- Do not 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 others safe.
- To inform the Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager.

- To record what happened on ARBOR
- If a referral is made to Adult Social Care this should be recorded in the Management Folder.

All situations of abuse or alleged abuse will be discussed with a manager and/or the Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager. If anyone feels unable to raise their concern with their line manager or Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager then concerns can be raised directly with Community Health and Social Care Direct (see below).

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 Community Health and Social Care Direct team. If the individual experiencing abuse does not have mental capacity to consent to a referral, a best interest decision will be made on their behalf.

In line with Making Safeguarding Personal principles, the Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager should try to seek the views from the adult (or an appropriate representative) about what they would like to happen as result of the concern. This will help to inform the multi-agency Safeguarding Adults Enquiry.

The Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager should refer to the Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board multi-agency policy and procedures and may also take advice from Community Health and Social Care Direct and/or the Safeguarding Adults Unit and/or other advice giving organisations such as the Police (see **useful contacts**).

### **Making a safeguarding adults referral**

**If you have a concern about an adult at risk you should report it:**

**Community Health and Social Care Direct (8am to 5pm) - Telephone: 0191 278 8377**

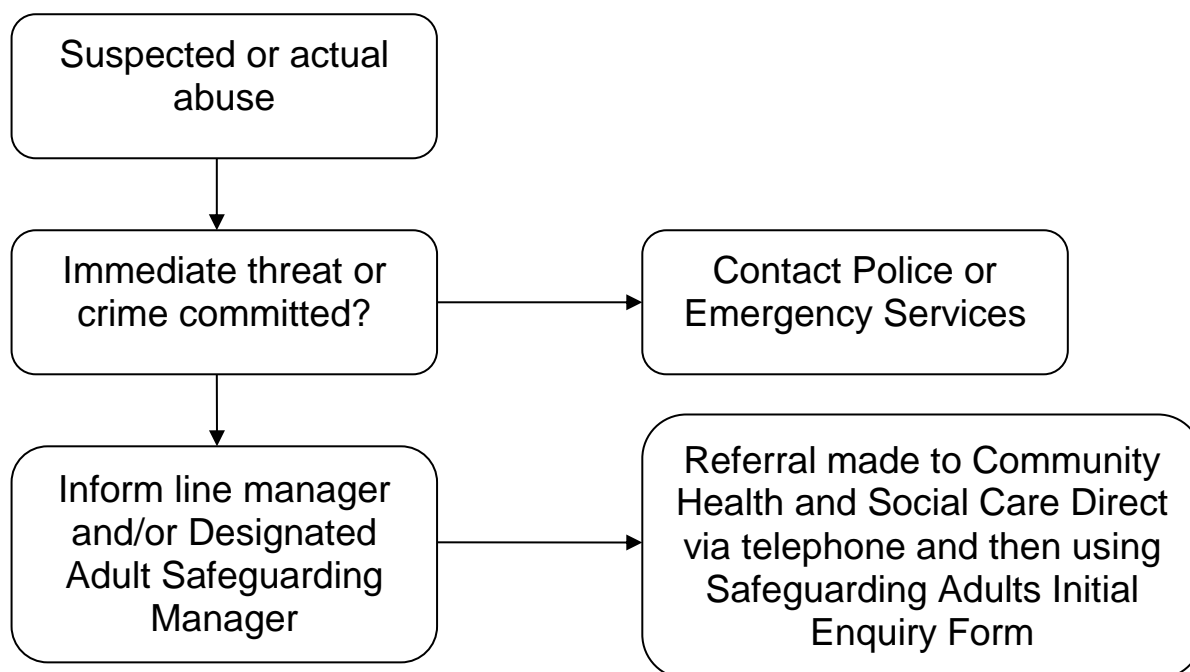
**Outside of these hours - Telephone: 0191 278 7878 (Mon-Fri, 5pm-8am & weekends)**

**Email: [scd@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:scd@newcastle.gov.uk)**

**In an emergency always dial 999**

The telephone call should be followed up immediately on the new reporting page via an online referral [HERE](#)





A Safeguarding Adults Manager (a Team Manager from Adult Social Care) will then decide what enquiries need to be undertaken. Feedback will be given to the person who made the safeguarding adults referral.

If the concern relates to a significant risk of (or actual) harm the concern will progress to Stage 2 of the Safeguarding Adults Enquiry and further information will be gathered (see Appendix 2 for an overview of the multi-agency safeguarding adults process).

The Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager will have an understanding of the multi-agency safeguarding adult's process so they can explain it to the person concerned and offer all relevant support to the person and process. This could be practical support e.g. providing a venue, or information and reports and emotional support.

Information should be provided to the individual. This could be about other sources of help or information that could enable them to decide what to do about their experience, enable them to recover from their experience and enable them to seek justice.

## 6. Managing an allegation made against a member of staff or volunteer

The Trust will ensure that any allegations made against members or member of staff will be dealt with swiftly.

Where a member of staff/volunteer is thought to have committed a criminal offence the Police will be informed. If a crime has been witnessed the Police should be contacted immediately.

The safety of the individual(s) concerned is paramount. A risk assessment must be undertaken immediately to assess the level of risk to all service users posed by the alleged perpetrator. This will include whether it is safe for them to continue in their role or any other role within the service whilst the investigation is undertaken.

The Designated Named Person will liaise with Community Health and Social Care Direct to discuss the best course of action and to ensure that the Trusts disciplinary procedures are coordinated with any other enquiries taking place as part of the ongoing management of the allegation.

The Trust has a whistle blowing policy and staff are aware of this policy. Staff will be supported to use this policy.

## **7. Recording and managing confidential information**

The Trust is committed to maintaining confidentiality wherever possible and information around safeguarding adults issues should be shared only with those who need to know. For further information, please see Confidentiality Policy

All allegations/concerns should be recorded on ARBOR. The information should be factual and not based on opinions, record what the person tells you, what you have seen and witnesses if appropriate.

The information that is recorded will be kept secure and will comply with data protection.

This information will be secured electronically on ARBOR to this information will be restricted to the Designated Named Person and Trust Head of Safeguarding and Inclusion

## **8. Disseminating/Reviewing policy and procedures**

This Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedure will be clearly communicated to managers, staff, volunteers, service users and carers and Board of Directors. The Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager will be responsible for ensuring that this is done.

The Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures will be reviewed annually by the Board of Directors. The Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager will be involved in this process and can recommend any changes. The Designated Adult Safeguarding Manager will also ensure that any changes are clearly communicated to staff, volunteers, service users and carers. It may be appropriate to involve staff, volunteers, service users and carers in the review.

## **9. Useful Contacts**

### **Community Health and Social Care Direct**

Phone: 0191 278 8377

Fax: 0191 278 8312

Available: Monday-Friday, 8am-6pm

Out of Hours Service: 0191 278 7878 (for emergency social care needs)

### **Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB)**

Phone: 0191 278 8156

Available: Monday – Friday, 9.30am-4pm

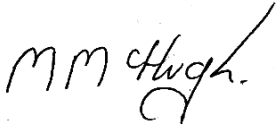
Please note that this is an advice service ONLY. All referrals should be raised with Community Health and Social Care Direct.

### **Northumbria Police**

Phone: 101

Ask for Local Area Police Station or Protecting Vulnerable Persons (PVP) Team.

**Signed on behalf of Trinity Academy Newcastle Trust:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M McHugh', with a long, sweeping flourish extending upwards and to the right.

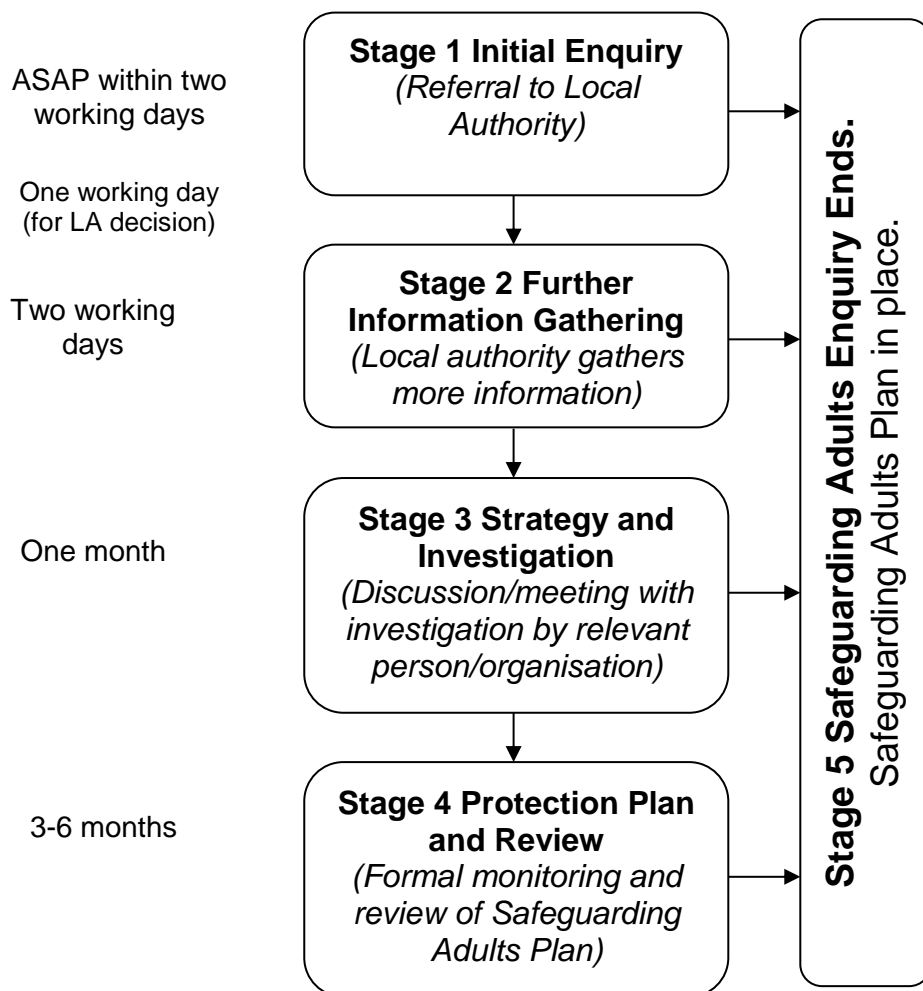
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**Michael McHugh (Chairperson for the Board)**

**Date: December 2024**

**Overview of multi-agency safeguarding adults process**

Suggested timescales



Safeguarding adult's enquiries are:

- Driven by the desired outcomes of the adult or their representative;
- Multi-agency;
- Proportionate to the level of presenting harm/risk.

The Safeguarding Adults Enquiry can end at any stage, when it is felt that risks have been managed, and the desired outcomes of the adult (or their representative) have been met, as far as they possibly can be.

At every stage of the Safeguarding Adults Enquiry, risks will be assessed and a Safeguarding Adults Plan agreed.