

Adult at Risk of Harm Protection Policy

1 Introduction

1.1

The protection of adults at risk of harm is the responsibility of **ALL** employees working within PKAVS as well as directors, students, volunteers, and temporary workers, even if their work does not involve direct contact with adults at risk of harm.

1.2

According to the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, adults at risk of harm are those aged 16 years and over who:

- are unable to safeguard their own wellbeing, property, rights, or other interests;
- and are at risk of harm;
- and because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness, or physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

All three criteria must be met for an adult to be deemed at risk of harm.

1.3

Safeguarding adults at risk of harm involves the actions, processes, and cultures that protect adults at risk of harm from abuse or harm. It is not just one policy, but a collection of practices, procedures, and systems, as well as education, awareness, and vigilance that ensures the risk of those adults experiencing abuse or harm is as low as it can possibly be.

2 Our Commitment

2.1

PKAVS has a zero tolerance approach to the harm or abuse of adults at risk of harm, and will ensure that their welfare, safety, and wellbeing are our overriding priority.

2.2

We realise that the safety and wellbeing of adults at risk of harm who we support, come into contact with, and know of is paramount in our day-to-day work.

2.3

PKAVS has made a commitment that by working together, all staff, with the support of students and volunteers, will improve services to adults at risk of harm ensuring they get the help they need when they need it, and are protected from harm. All individuals will have a clear and unequivocal responsibility to ensure that they are competent and able to take appropriate actions to protect and promote the wellbeing of an adult at risk of harm.

3 Our Approach to the Protection of Adults at Risk of Harm

3.1

Our safeguarding activities are guided by legislation including the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007; Protecting and Supporting Adults at Risk in Tayside, 2015; Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, Perth and Kinross Multi-Agency Guidelines; and the Human Rights Act 1998, including others.

3.2

Our **Safeguarding Handbook** is PKAVS adults at risk of harm point of reference and guidance for all directors, staff, volunteers, and students who will be given access to a copy of this and it will be easily accessible on PKAVS network.

3.3

All staff, volunteers, and students are subject to suitability checks before direct work begins with adults at risk of harm - through the seeking of references and, where regulated work is undertaken, a Disclosure Scotland Application (for new or existing members) is requested and processed.

3.4

All staff and volunteers within PKAVS will undergo safeguarding training at induction and regular intervals afterwards; this may be face-to-face or online training.

3.5

Staff who are service user facing will undergo regular face-to-face training either by external partners or by appropriate PKAVS staff.

3.6

Everyone will be aware of the procedure for raising adult at risk concerns as well as how to respond to someone who discloses concerns about abuse of an adult at risk. This is found in **PKAVS Safeguarding Handbook** and a flow chart located around PKAVS premises.

3.7

PKAVS shall have an established Safeguarding Committee that meets 6-monthly to circulate good practice, updates, concerns, and other issues relating to adults at risk of harm

4. Policy Review

This policy (and associated Safeguarding Handbook) will be monitored and reviewed on the following occasions:

- When there is a change in legislation or guidance on the protection of adults at risk of harm or changes within PKAVS
- Following any significant adult protection events where learning points are identified
- In all other circumstances annually