



Screen South Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

Company Statement

Screen South policy for Screen South associates (board members, staff, contractors or volunteers).

Screen South are not a care provider and will only come into contact with vulnerable adults through workshops which they provide and on a limited basis. However it is important that Screen South associates are aware of the vulnerability of specific adults within the community and the action to take should they have concerns. This policy should be read in conjunction with the Screen South Equal Opportunities Policy.

Definition of Adult 'at risk'

Definition from section 42 of the Care Act 2014 of who should be regarded as an 'adult at risk of abuse'.

A person over the age of 18 who:-

- (a) has needs for care and support,
- (b) is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- (c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

It is recognised that there will have to be a judgement made to determine whether or not to treat someone as an adult at risk at any specific time.

It is important that if the definition is not met that information about that person should not be shared without consent except in extreme situations or where not to do so would place someone else at risk.

Adults at Risk

Adults at risk that Screen South associates might come into contact with include people with care and support needs, such as older people or people with disabilities, who are more likely to be abused or neglected. They may be seen as an easy target and may be less likely to identify abuse themselves or to report it. People with communication difficulties can be particularly at risk because they may not be able to alert others. Sometimes people may not even be aware that they are being abused, and this is especially likely if they have a cognitive impairment.

Different Types of Abuse or Risk

- Physical
- Domestic Violence
- Sexual
- Psychological
- Financial- including "Abuse" includes financial abuse; and for that purpose "financial abuse" includes:

- (a)having money or other property stolen,
- (b)being defrauded,
- (c)being put under pressure in relation to money or other property, and
- (d)having money or other property misused.

- Modern Slavery
- Discriminatory
- Institutional
- Neglect
- Self neglect

For more information about these visit:

<https://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/adults/introduction/types-and-indicators-of-abuse>

Six safeguarding principles - Adult safeguarding: sharing information

Empowerment

People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent. Apart from when a person meets the definition in the last paragraph of section 1 it is important that people make their own decisions about reporting risk or abuse and understand the implications of doing so. If information is shared without the express consent of the adult concerned a record must be made of this and the reasons for the decision. The record kept as highly confidential information and password protected.

Prevention

It is better to take action before harm occurs.

Proportionality

The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

Protection

Support and representation for those in greatest need.

Partnership

Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.

Accountability

Accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice.

Referral

It is the responsibility of Screen South associates (Board members, staff, contractors or volunteers) to raise concerns with Jo Nolan MD Screen South.

Kent Social Services

To report abuse if you are concerned about an adult:

- call **03000 41 61 61** (text relay 18001 03000 41 61 61)
- email social.services@kent.gov.uk.

Medway Social Services

Call **01634 334 466** from 8.30am to 5pm.

If it's an emergency outside of normal hours, you can also call us at any time on **03000 419 191**.

Send us more information by completing our [adult social care safeguarding alert form](#) and emailing it to ss.accessandinfo@medway.gov.uk