
SAFEGUARDING POLICY FOR ADULTS AT RISK

The Stockport ME Group is committed to ensuring that vulnerable people who use our services are not abused and that working practices minimise the risk of such abuse. Committee members, volunteers and Trustees of Stockport ME Group have a duty to identify abuse and report it. We have a separate Children and Young People Safeguarding Policy although we only work with adults it is very rare that it comes into use.

Definition

“Adults at risk” are :

- **18 years** or older.
- **Care and support needs:** The individual requires care and/or support.
- **Vulnerability to harm:** They are experiencing or are at risk of abuse or neglect.
- **Inability to protect themselves:** Their care and support needs mean they are unable to protect themselves from that abuse or neglect.

It will not always be clear whether a particular adult is an “adult at risk”. When in doubt the situation should always be brought to the Safeguarding Officer and if they are not available to one of the trustees.

Abuse can include:

- physical,
- financial,
- material,
- sexual,
- psychological,
- discriminatory,
- emotional abuse
- neglect.

Abuse can take place in any setting, public or private, and can be perpetuated by anyone.

Rights & Responsibilities

Responsibilities of Stockport ME Group committee members, volunteers and Trustees:

- To ensure volunteers are aware of adult at risks need for protection
- To notify the appropriate agencies if abuse is identified or suspected

- To support and where possible secure the safety of individuals and ensure that all referrals to services have full information in relation to identified risk and vulnerability
- As needed, Disclosure and Barring service (DBS) checks for trustees and volunteers that have access to or work with Vulnerable Adults

Responsibilities of Stockport ME Group committee members, volunteers and trustees:

- To be familiar with the safeguarding policy
- To take appropriate action in line with the policy of the Stockport ME Group
- To declare any existing or subsequent convictions.

Reporting and Disclosures

If anyone involved with the charity is aware of an adult at risk of abuse they must report this to the Safeguarding Officer. If a situation or individual presents a risk to adults who are at risk of abuse then they should report this issue also to the Safeguarding Officer.

If the Safeguarding Officer is not available then this should be reported to one of the trustees. This is in addition to any additional disclosures that they feel are appropriate to make e.g. to social services or the police.

If an imminent risk is present then it is recommended that the relevant statutory authorities are contacted first before the Safeguarding Officer or trustees are contacted.

Support for those who report abuse

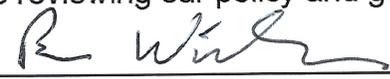
All those making a complaint, allegation or expressing concern, whether they are committee volunteers or Stockport ME Group members or carers should be reassured that:

- They will be taken seriously
- Their comments will usually be treated confidentially, but their concerns may be shared with the appropriate authorities if they or others are at significant risk

The Adult at risk has the right:

- To be made aware of this policy
- To have alleged incidents recognised and taken seriously
- To receive fair and respectful treatment throughout
- To be involved in any process as appropriate
- To receive information about the outcome

We are also committed to reviewing our policy and good practice annually.

Chairperson's Signature: 

Adopted on: 19/11/25 Reviewed date: 19/11/26