

PL24 Community Association Safeguarding Policy

PL24 Community Association (PL24CA) organises events and activities within the PL24 postcode area for all members of the community.

The aims of PL24CA are as follows:

- a) To promote community cohesion in the PL24 area by operating as an 'umbrella group', offering a forum for discussion and a focal point for the community through the PL24 Community Association Magazine, Website and Facebook group.
- b) To foster inclusivity.
- c) To contribute to efforts to help improve the quality of life of those living within the PL24 area.

PL24CA makes a positive contribution to a strong and safe community and recognises the right of every individual to stay safe. We do **not** offer any activities or events which are solely for children or vulnerable adults. However, PL24CA is also aware of our responsibility to provide a safe environment for children, young people and vulnerable adults within our community.

Definitions

A child or young person means anyone under the age of 18.

A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 years or over who may be unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves from harm or from being exploited.

This **may** include a person who: Is elderly and frail; has a mental illness including dementia; has a physical or sensory disability; has a learning disability; has a severe physical illness; is a substance misuser; is homeless.

As volunteers, we need to be aware that safeguarding issues can arise in any situation.

Safeguarding is about protecting yourself and others.

Take emergency action if someone is at immediate risk of harm/in need of urgent medical attention. Dial 999 for emergency services

Please be aware that:

- you should **never** be on your own with a child, young person or vulnerable adult.
- you should remain in sight of others e.g. leave doors open.
- you should **not** take photos of children or vulnerable adults.
- you should check with the responsible adult/carers as to whether any food, drink or toys or similar are appropriate for the individual before offering.

If you are concerned for the safety of a child, a young person or for an adult who may be vulnerable in any way at a PL24CA organised event or activity, you must alert the PL24CA Event or Activity Lead/s as a matter of urgency. This might mean asking someone else to find the PL24CA Event or Activity Lead/s whilst you stay with the child, young person or potentially vulnerable adult for their safety, but please do make sure you are not on your own with them and that you remain visible to others at all times.

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Abuse

The Care and Support Statutory Guidance identifies different types of abuse.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance>

For example, in respect of children under the age of 18, the 4 main types of abuse are:

- Neglect
- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Emotional Abuse

There are 10 types of abuse for vulnerable adults, but young people may also be at risk of these types of abuse as well:

- Physical Abuse
- Domestic Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect or acts of omission
- Self-Neglect
- Psychological or Emotional Abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Modern slavery
- Discriminatory Abuse

Contact details in case of concern

If you do have any safeguarding concerns, if you are worried about a child, young person or an adult who you think may be potentially vulnerable, please do not hesitate to raise your concerns.

1. In the case of adults, where possible, get brief details about what has happened and what the adult would like done about it, but do not probe or conduct a mini-investigation. **Seek written, signed and dated consent from the adult to take action and to report the concern.** Consider whether the adult may lack capacity to make decisions about their own and other people's safety and wellbeing. If you believe they lack capacity or others may be at risk, you should not promise to keep the information confidential. If you decide to act against their wishes or without their consent, you must record your decision and the reasons for this, and report your concerns.

2. In the case of children or young people, you can listen to what they say until the point where you feel it is a safeguarding matter. After this point, avoid asking any questions and seek advice immediately. Do not promise to keep the information confidential.

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3. If you believe it is a safeguarding matter and have an immediate concern, please contact the services below.

You can contact the following Cornwall Council departments direct:

Adults - tel 0300 1234 131 (out of hours number 01208 251300)
or email accessteam.referral@cornwall.gov.uk

Children - 0300 123 1116 Multi Agency Referral Unit (MARU)

If you cannot get through to the above services or have any other query, contact Alison White, the Secretary who is the main designated safeguarding officer.

Alison White, the Secretary: 07979 755 703

pl24community@gmail.com

PL24CA Allegations of abuse - follow-up procedures

The designated safeguarding officer for PL24CA will follow the process outlined below in respect of alleged abuse.

Reports of concerns or incidents will be documented by the designated officer. As far as possible, the notes should be written contemporaneously, dated and signed. Notes will be made of the allegation and will include the name and contact details of the individual who has made the allegation and the personal details (where known) of the victim of any alleged abuse.

The only people with access to this information will be the designated officer. Reports about safeguarding concerns are kept confidential and in a location where the alleged abuser will not have access to the report.

Referral

In making a decision whether to refer or not, the designated safeguarding lead should take into account:

- the adult's wishes and preferred outcome
- whether the adult has mental capacity to make an informed decision about their own and others' safety. Please note that where an adult appears to have mental capacity, they must give their consent for referral (and preferably sign to confirm this).
- the safety or wellbeing of children or other adults with care and support needs
- whether a crime has been committed.

Where the designated safeguarding lead decides not to refer on, the reason/s should be documented. Caution should be exercised when decisions are taken. When in doubt, the designated lead must refer on.

The designated safeguarding lead will refer on as appropriate to the relevant Cornwall Council department, police and/or other authority.