


Voluntary and Communities, Social Enterprising Safeguarding Newsletter February 2022


Welcome to our February newsletter. I hope that you are all safe and keeping well. At our second ER VCSE safeguarding forum earlier the main agenda item was centred around What does an Effective Safeguarding Culture look like. Such was the strength and quality of the debate/discussion that I thought it was important that we shared some of the key learning from the forum.

Please don't be put off by the terminology and thought of a 'Safeguarding Culture'. In simple terms we are talking about the steps, behaviours and values that every organisation/group, no matter how large or small, should be taking to keep everyone within the group and organisation safe, and free from harm.

I have been working with the Anne Craft Trust on this vitally important topic and we have found that it is often easier to start looking at what behaviours we might associate with poor safeguarding cultures which could lead to abuse of any kind taking place. At the forum the following areas were suggested.



Examples of ineffective cultures



-  Fear of being wrong
-  Fear of repercussions
-  Organisational reputation
-  Reported before and no one seemed interested/not investigated/made to feel a nuisance
-  Not sure/aware of the process to report concerns
-  Someone else will report it.
-  I know the person, can't possibly have done anything wrong!

Do you believe you have any of these behaviours in your organisation? Do you need advice/support to address these issues? If so, please get in touch with [me](#).

What does an effective Safeguarding Culture look like?

What does an effective Safeguarding Culture look like?



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& Growing Together

Recognition and acceptance that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

That abuse can happen anywhere

Be Proactive not Reactive - prevention the key.

Be prepared with policies, procedures and sound practice shared across the organisation

Take advantage of the training on offer for EVERYONE – not just the safeguarding lead.

Safeguarding (Common sense approach) is engrained in everyday routines and practice – Not A Bolt- On



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In addition to the 6 key behaviours and steps above. The Anne Craft Trust has worked with hundreds of different organisations to identify/develop ten core values that underpin effective safeguarding cultures across the VCSE sector.



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Task for you to try at your next committee meeting

Make each of the ten points listed below into a question and answer honestly from your organisation/group's perspective.

What kind of a safeguarding culture do you have?

Answer individually to start with, and then share your thoughts as a group to initiate a Safeguarding Culture conversation.

For example – Is everyone within our organisation treated with respect and dignity?

Values that underpin effective safeguarding cultures

While all organisations will have their own set of values, I believe organisations that positively promote safer cultures follow similar values. For example, an environment where everyone:

1. Has the right to have fun and be safe from harm and abuse
2. Is treated with respect and dignity
3. Feels valued and treated equally
4. Has a say – their voice is listened to, welcomed and encouraged
5. Has the chance to thrive
6. Is empowered to recognise and report concerns without fear or judgment
7. Knows concerns are actively followed up and taken seriously
8. Has the right to organisational transparency, honesty, integrity and fairness
9. Is offered equal opportunities
10. Is encouraged to, and has the opportunity to, learn, reflect and improve



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Additional Organisation/Group Task

I would recommend that as a follow up task to any initial 'Safeguarding Culture' discussions that have taken place, **EVERY** organisation/group then take the NSPCC safeguarding self-assessment for Voluntary and Charitable groups. This is a brilliant tool to be able to see what strengths you might have but also where there might be gaps in your practice, policy and procedure. It will take approx. 15 mins to complete, and I suggest that you do this as a group exercise. It will then give you a very detailed and fabulous written report that is totally confidential and non-judgemental, depending on your answers. This feedback should shape any future actions you take to further improve safeguarding within your group/organisation.

I hope you find this exercise invaluable for your organisations/groups safeguarding journey.

Here is the link to take you to the self- assessment tool.

[Safeguarding and child protection self-assessment tool | NSPCC Learning](#)

Although it's targeted specifically at children, there are huge areas of safeguarding that overlap and will still be incredibly beneficial even if you only work with adults. If you require any support, advice, guidance or training with any of the above please do not hesitate to contact me on hnf-tr.vcssafeguarding@nhs.net



A dark, moody photograph of two women's faces in profile, looking towards the right. The woman in the foreground is slightly out of focus, while the woman behind her is sharper. The lighting is dramatic, highlighting their features against a dark background.

Be the eyes and ears of the community.

Safeguarding is everyone's
responsibility.

Reporting Concerns

It's important that all people responsible for Safeguarding children, young people and adults within their group or organisation, are aware of who to contact in case of making a referral or any other matter relating to keeping vulnerable children, young people adults safe.

A wide range of information, including useful contacts, is available via the following websites, therefore all Voluntary Sector Safeguarding Officers/Leads should familiarise themselves with their local Safeguarding partnerships/boards/ by visiting the websites and keeping copies of the useful information below to hand which is also available on the ER VCSE Portal [here](#).

Contact Details Local Safeguarding Children/Adults Teams

The ERY Safeguarding Teams provide information and advice to the general public and health and social care professionals about abuse of vulnerable adults. It also provides a central team which receives referrals about suspected abuse and coordinates any investigation.

Children

East Riding of Yorkshire Safeguarding Children's Partnership
website: www.erscp.co.uk

East Riding Yorkshire Children's Safeguarding Hub
Monday - Thursday 9am-5pm Friday 9am-4.30pm Tel: (01482) 395500
Out of Office Hours Tel: (01482) 393939



Adults

If you think you have been abused, who do you report it to? If you think you have been abused and want to report it yourself, these are the numbers of people you can talk to:

East Riding of Yorkshire Safeguarding Adult Team website: www.ersab.org.uk
Monday - Thursday 9am-5pm Friday 9am-4.30pm. Tel: (01482) 396940
Emergency Duty Team (Out of Office Hours) Tel: (01377) 241273
Humburside Police Tel: 101 / Emergency Services Tel: 999

VCSE Safeguarding Training January to April 2022

I am extremely pleased that the number of organisations who are taking advantage of our FREE Safeguarding Training continues to grow rapidly. These are currently virtual and will operate via Teams or Zoom. If you or anyone within your organisation who'd like to attend, please email hnf-tr.vcssafeguarding@nhs.net with the title of the course you wish attend, your name, contact details and the name of the organisation you are representing.

**Safeguarding is
Everyone's
Responsibility**

I strongly recommend that as many people within your organisations as possible attend these sessions, not just your Safeguarding Lead.

We continue to get tremendous feedback from individuals who've participated in the training, here's a few of their quotes.

"I found the safeguarding lead training was very well presented. The information given was very informative and will help me in my role of safeguarding lead."

Safeguarding Lead (attended safeguarding lead training)

"This training provided the guidance and knowledge our Charity required to develop an up-to-date safeguarding policy. As a result, we have confidence that our current policy and practice are of a high standard. The tools and resources provided have been extremely useful as was the ability to network with other Charities."

Charity Co-ordinator (attended safeguarding policy training)

"The Safeguarding course was good, very relaxed and informative."
Trustee (attended the one-day adults and Children's training session)



Introduction to Adult Safeguarding Basic Awareness (3 hours)

This course will provide basic awareness regarding the safeguarding of adults, including professional curiosity and professional boundaries.

Who should attend?

This course is ideal for all staff and trustees that would like basic awareness regarding the safeguarding of adults.

- Tuesday 22nd February (9.30am - 12.30pm)
- Monday 21st March (9.30am - 12.30pm)



Introduction to Adult and Children Safeguarding (6 hours)

This course will provide basic awareness regarding the safeguarding of both adults and children, including professional curiosity and professional boundaries.

Who should attend?

This course is ideal for all staff and trustees that would like basic awareness regarding the safeguarding of both adults and children.

- Thursday 31st March (9.30am - 3.30pm)

Designated Lead — Adult Safeguarding Session (3 hours)

This course covers Section 42 (10) and (2) of The Care Act, including referring safeguarding cases, dealing.

Who should attend?

This course is ideal for anyone who is the designated lead for adult safeguarding or anyone responsible for referring or managing safeguarding concerns.

- Tuesday 22nd February (1.30pm - 4.30pm)

Safeguarding Queries/Questions/Support

Should you have any safeguarding queries or questions or would like my support with anything to do with making your organisation a safer place for everyone, then please do not hesitate to contact me on hnf-tr.vcssafeguarding@nhs.net

Take care, stay safe, stay healthy.

Gary Truran
VCSE Safeguarding Practitioner

