



PONY PARTNERSHIPS



Safeguarding Adults Policy

Name of Organisation: Pony Partnerships

Venue Address for which policy applies: All sites.

Date of last review: 1st September 2025

Date of next review: 31st August 2026

Name of Risk Assessor: Danielle Mills

1. Introduction

Pony Partnerships CIC is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of adults with care and support needs. We will not tolerate abuse in any form and will act promptly on concerns to protect individuals from harm.

This policy outlines how we will safeguard adults at risk in line with the Care Act 2014, Care and Support Statutory Guidance (2023), the Human Rights Act 1998, and the Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board procedures.

We recognise that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and that effective action requires partnership with statutory agencies, families, and communities.

2. Policy Objectives

All staff, trustees, and volunteers must:

- Understand what safeguarding adults is and how to recognise concerns.
- Take appropriate action when an adult with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse or neglect.
- Promote Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) by placing the adult's wishes, wellbeing, and rights at the centre of decisions.
- Work transparently and in partnership with other organisations.

3. Definition of Safeguarding Adults

Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect, while promoting their wellbeing and respecting their views.

Under the Care Act 2014, safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- Has care and support needs.
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- Is unable to protect themselves as a result of their care and support needs.

4. Principles of Adult Safeguarding

We follow the six statutory safeguarding principles:

- Empowerment – adults are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions.

- Prevention – take action before harm occurs.
- Proportionality – use the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk.
- Protection – support and represent those in greatest need.
- Partnership – work together with communities and professionals.
- Accountability – be transparent in safeguarding practice.

5. Safeguarding Roles at Pony Partnerships CIC

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL): Danielle Mills – Director & Manager
info@ponypartnerships.com/07505951793
- Deputy DSL: Claire Jacob – Claire@ponypartnerships.com/07768185391

The DSL is responsible for:

- Deciding whether to notify Adult Social Care or take alternative action.
- Maintaining up-to-date safeguarding policies and procedures.
- Ensuring safe environments and training for staff/volunteers.

All staff/volunteers must:

- Report safeguarding concerns immediately to the DSL/Deputy.
- Record concerns accurately and confidentially.
- Cooperate with safeguarding investigations.

6. What to Do if Concerned

1. Respond

- Take emergency action if the person is in immediate danger (call 999).
- Gain brief details of the concern but ****do not investigate****.
- Seek the adult's consent to act wherever possible.
- If acting without consent, record the reasons (e.g. risk to others, lack of capacity, crime committed).

2. Report

- Inform the DSL/Deputy immediately.
- Complete an incident report form as soon as possible.
- Keep accurate, dated, signed records stored securely in line with (Data Protection Act 2018/GDPR).

3. Refer

The DSL will consider:

- The adult's wishes and capacity to decide.
- Risks to others, including children.
- Whether a crime has been committed.
- Whether a person in a position of trust is involved.

Possible referrals:

- Police (if a crime is suspected).
- Call Derbyshire – 01629 533190/derbyshireab@derbyshire.gov.uk
- Regulatory bodies/commissioners.
- Family/relatives (where appropriate).

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7. Types of Abuse (Care Act categories)

- Physical abuse
- Neglect/acts of omission
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological/emotional abuse
- Financial/material abuse
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational/institutional abuse
- Domestic abuse
- Modern slavery
- Self-neglect

(See Appendix 1 for signs and indicators.)

8. Confidentiality & Information Sharing

- Information will only be shared on a need-to-know basis and in line with KSCIE guidance on information sharing.
- Safeguarding concerns override the duty of confidentiality where necessary to prevent harm.

9. Safer Recruitment

- All staff and volunteers are recruited in line with Safer Recruitment principles.
- DBS checks are carried out where appropriate.
- A Single Central Record is maintained.

10. Training & Supervision

- All staff/volunteers receive basic safeguarding adults awareness training.
- Refresher training is provided at least every 3 years.
- Additional role-specific training (e.g. DSL, Prevent) is provided where needed.
- Safeguarding is embedded in induction and supervision.

11. Prevent Duty

- We recognise radicalisation as a safeguarding risk. If there are concerns that an adult is at risk of being drawn into terrorism, this will be treated as a safeguarding matter and referred via Prevent procedures.

12. Whistleblowing & Complaints

- Staff/volunteers who raise safeguarding concerns in good faith will be protected under whistleblowing law.
- Any dissatisfaction with safeguarding decisions can be raised via Pony Partnerships' Complaints Policy.

13. Monitoring & Review

- This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if legislation, guidance, or local procedures change.
- Learning from safeguarding incidents will be used to strengthen practice.

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Appendix 1 – Types of Abuse

What are the types of safeguarding adults abuse?

The Care and Support statutory guidance set out the 10 main types of abuse:

- Physical abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological
- Financial abuse
- Discriminatory
- Organisational
- Domestic violence
- Modern Slavery
- Self-neglect

However, you should keep an open mind about what constitutes abuse or neglect as it can take many forms and the circumstances of the individual case should always be considered.

For more information, read section 14.17 of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance. What are the possible signs of abuse?

Abuse and neglect can be difficult to spot. You should be alert to the following possible signs of abuse and neglect:

- Depression, self-harm, or suicide attempts
- Difficulty making friends.
- Fear or anxiety.
- The person looks dirty or is not dressed properly.
- The person never has money.
- The person has an injury that is difficult to explain (such as bruises, finger marks, 'non-accidental' injury, neck, shoulders, chest, and arms).
- The person has signs of a pressure ulcer.
- The person is experiencing insomnia.
- The person seems frightened or frightened of physical contact.
- Inappropriate sexual awareness or sexually explicit behaviour.
- The person is withdrawn, changes in behaviour.

You should ask the person if you are unsure about their well-being as there may be other explanations to the above presentation.

Who abuses and neglects adults?

Abuse can happen anywhere, even in somebody's own home. Most often abuse takes place by others who are in a position of trust and power. It can take place whether an adult lives alone or with others. Anyone can carry out abuse or neglect, including:

- partners;
- other family members;
- neighbours;
- friends;
- acquaintances;
- local residents;
- people who deliberately exploit adults they perceive as vulnerable to abuse;
- paid staff or professionals; and
- volunteers and strangers

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Appendix 2 - Safeguarding Adults Flowchart

*If you are worried that an adult with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse or neglect:

Step 1 – Immediate Danger

Is the person in immediate danger or in need of urgent medical help?

- YES → Call 999 (Police / Ambulance).
- Provide first aid if safe to do so.
- Then continue to Step 2.
- NO → Go to Step 2.

Step 2 – Respond

- Stay calm and listen carefully.
- Reassure the adult that they are being taken seriously.
- Do not investigate – only gather brief facts (who, what, when, where).
- Seek consent to share information unless:
 - others are at risk,
 - a crime has been committed,
 - or the person lacks capacity.

Step 3 – Report

- Contact the DSL immediately:
 - Danielle Mills – 07505 951793/info@ponypartnerships.com
 - If DSL unavailable: contact Deputy DSL:
 - Claire Jacob - Deputy DSL: Claire Jacob–
Claire@ponypartnerships.com/07768185391
- Complete an Incident Report Form as soon as possible.
- Keep all notes factual, signed, and dated.

Step 4 – Refer (DSL Decision)

The DSL will decide whether to refer the concern to:

- Adult Social Care (Call Derbyshire 01629 533190/derbyshireab@derbyshire.gov.uk)
- Police: if a crime is suspected.
- Other agencies: e.g. regulators, commissioners, safeguarding boards.

Where appropriate, the adult's wishes and capacity will be considered.

Step 5 – Record & Follow-Up

- All safeguarding records stored securely in line with Data Protection Act 2018 / GDPR.
- DSL provides feedback to referrer (without breaching confidentiality).
- Ongoing support arranged for the adult.
- Incident reviewed to identify learning and update risk assessments.

REMEMBER:

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.
- Concerns must always be taken seriously.
- It is better to share a concern that proves unfounded than to miss a risk.

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