

Pony Partnerships CIC



Safeguarding Adults Policy 2026-2027

Name of Organisation: Pony Partnerships CIC

Venue/Address: All venues

Date of Review: 1 September 2026

Date of Next Review: 31 August 2027

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1. Policy Statement

Pony Partnerships CIC will not tolerate abuse, neglect, or exploitation in any form.

We are committed to safeguarding adults with care and support needs and promoting their right to live safely, free from abuse and neglect.

We recognise that safeguarding adults is everyone's responsibility and that concerns must be acted on promptly, proportionately, and respectfully.

2. Purpose

This policy aims to:

- protect adults with care and support needs from abuse, neglect, and harm;
- ensure staff, associates and volunteers understand their safeguarding responsibilities;
- promote person-centred and outcome-focused safeguarding practice;
- support safe and effective working practices;
- ensure concerns are reported, recorded, and referred appropriately.

3. Scope

This policy applies to:

- adult participants;
- staff, associates, and volunteers;
- directors;
- contractors;
- visitors;
- commissioners and partner organisations.

It applies across all Pony Partnerships CIC services, including therapy, learning, enrichment, wellbeing, community, and commissioned provision.

4. Legal and Regulatory Context

This policy has been developed with regard to relevant UK adult safeguarding legislation, statutory guidance and recognised good practice.

This includes the Care Act 2014, the Care and Support Statutory Guidance, the Mental Capacity Act 2005, the Human Rights Act 1998, and local safeguarding adults' procedures.

Pony Partnerships CIC will act in accordance with relevant adult safeguarding duties, information-sharing requirements, and local safeguarding arrangements.

This policy will be reviewed to reflect changes in legislation, statutory guidance, local safeguarding procedures, and organisational practice.

Where adult safeguarding concerns overlap with child safeguarding, commissioned provision, staff conduct, online safety or adults in positions of trust, Pony Partnerships CIC will also consider relevant child safeguarding guidance, including Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026, where applicable.

5. What is Adult Safeguarding?

Adult safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It involves people and organisations working together to prevent and stop abuse or neglect, while promoting the adult's wellbeing, views, wishes, feelings, and beliefs.

Adult safeguarding duties apply where an adult:

- has care and support needs;
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect;
- is unable to protect themselves from that abuse or neglect because of those needs.

6. Safeguarding Principles

Pony Partnerships CIC follows the six safeguarding principles under the Care Act:

- **Empowerment** – people are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions;
- **Prevention** – action is taken before harm occurs;
- **Proportionality** – the least intrusive response is used, proportionate to the risk;
- **Protection** – support is provided for those in greatest need;
- **Partnership** – local agencies and communities work together;
- **Accountability** – safeguarding practice is transparent and responsible.

7. Making Safeguarding Personal

Pony Partnerships CIC is committed to Making Safeguarding Personal.

This means safeguarding should be person-led and outcome-focused wherever possible. Adults should be involved in decisions about their safeguarding arrangements and supported to express what they would like to happen.

Safeguarding responses will take account of the adult's wishes, feelings, beliefs, mental capacity, safety, and wellbeing.

8. Types of Abuse and Neglect

Abuse or neglect may be deliberate or unintentional. It may be a single incident or repeated pattern of harm.

Types of abuse may include:

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- physical abuse;
- domestic abuse, including coercive and controlling behaviour;
- sexual abuse or sexual exploitation;
- psychological or emotional abuse;
- financial or material abuse;
- modern slavery, trafficking, or forced labour;
- discriminatory abuse;
- organisational abuse;
- neglect or acts of omission, including failure to provide necessary care, medication, medical support, or allergy-related safety arrangements;
- self-neglect;
- online abuse, cyber-enabled abuse, harassment, image-based abuse, or digital exploitation;
- exploitation, including radicalisation, coercion, cuckooing, or criminal exploitation.

Staff should remain alert to signs of harm, distress, changes in behaviour, unexplained injuries, fearfulness, withdrawal, poor self-care, controlling relationships, or concerns raised by others.

9. Additional vulnerabilities and barriers

Pony Partnerships CIC recognises that some adults may face additional barriers to being heard, believed, supported, or protected.

Staff should be particularly alert where an adult:

- has communication differences, learning disability, neurodivergence or sensory needs;
- has physical, mental health, medical, allergy, or emergency medication needs;
- is isolated, dependent on others or subject to controlling relationships;
- is experiencing homelessness, domestic abuse, exploitation, or financial abuse;
- is affected by substance misuse, trauma, poor mental health, or self-neglect;
- may be reluctant or unable to disclose harm directly;
- may be at risk because of online contact, coercion, grooming, radicalisation, or exploitation.

Staff must not assume that an adult is safe simply because they appear independent or because another professional or family member is involved.

10. Consent, Capacity and Advocacy

Adults should usually be asked for consent before a safeguarding concern is shared.

However, information may be shared without consent where:

- the adult or another person is at immediate risk of harm;
- a crime may have been committed;
- others may be at risk;
- the adult lacks capacity to make the relevant decision;
- there is a public interest or legal reason to share information.

Where there are concerns about an adult's capacity to make a safeguarding decision, the Mental Capacity Act 2005 principles must be considered.

Where an adult has substantial difficulty being involved in safeguarding decisions and has no appropriate person to support them, advocacy may be required.

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Where there is uncertainty about consent, capacity, coercion or immediate risk, staff must seek advice from the DSL rather than delaying action.

11. What Staff Should Do if Concerned

Staff, associates, or volunteers who have an adult safeguarding concern must:

1. Respond

- Take immediate action if someone is at risk of serious harm.
- Call 999 where emergency help is needed.
- Where the concern involves a weapon, suspected illegal item or another item presenting an immediate risk, follow the Search, Prohibited Items and Confiscation Procedure. Staff must not conduct a non-consensual personal search and should contact the police where the risk cannot be managed safely.
- Follow first aid, medical or allergy emergency procedures where relevant.
- Listen calmly and take the concern seriously.
- Do not investigate, question unnecessarily or make promises of confidentiality.

2. Report

- Report the concern to the Designated Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible.
- If the concern is about the DSL, seek advice from the Deputy DSL or Derbyshire safeguarding adults' arrangements.
- Record the concern factually, clearly, and promptly.

3. Record

- Include what was seen, heard, or disclosed.
- Use the adult's own words where possible.
- Record dates, times, names, actions taken and who was informed.
- Store records securely and confidentially.

4. Refer

- The DSL will decide whether a referral to Adult Social Care, police, commissioner, or another agency is required.
- The reasons for referring or not referring must be recorded.

12. Safeguarding Leads

Designated Safeguarding Lead: Danielle Mills, 07505951793, info@ponypartnerships.com

Deputy Safeguarding Lead: Lorna Knight, lorna@ponypartnerships.com

The DSL is responsible for:

- receiving adult safeguarding concerns;
- supporting staff and volunteers;
- deciding whether external referral is required;
- liaising with Adult Social Care, police, commissioners, or other agencies;
- ensuring records are maintained securely;
- ensuring this policy is reviewed and implemented.

13. Local Reporting Route

Where there is a concern that an adult is at risk of abuse or neglect, Pony Partnerships CIC will seek advice or make a referral through the relevant local adult safeguarding route.

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For Derby City, concerns may be reported to:

- Derby City Adult Safeguarding / MASH: 01332 642855
- Email: AdultsMASH@derby.gov.uk
- Out of hours: Careline 01332 956606
- Online referral: use the Derby City Council adult safeguarding referral route.

And for Derbyshire:

For Derbyshire, concerns may be reported to:

- Call Derbyshire: 01629 533190
- Email: derbyshireab@derbyshire.gov.uk
- Online referral: use the Derbyshire adult safeguarding referral route.

If there is immediate danger or a crime is taking place, staff must call **999**.

14. Allegations Against Staff, Volunteers or People in Positions of Trust

Where an allegation or concern relates to a staff member, associate, volunteer, director, contractor, or any person in a position of trust, this must be reported to the DSL immediately.

Where the allegation concerns the DSL, the matter should be reported to the Deputy DSL, or advice should be sought from the relevant local safeguarding adults' arrangements.

Pony Partnerships CIC will cooperate with safeguarding enquiries, police investigations, commissioners and regulatory bodies where required.

Where the person in a position of trust also works with, volunteers with, or has contact with children or young people, Pony Partnerships CIC will consider whether the concern also needs to be managed under the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy, Low-Level Concerns procedure, Allegations/LADO procedure, Safer Recruitment Policy or Code of Conduct.

15. Think Family and linked safeguarding concerns

Adult safeguarding concerns may also indicate risk to children, young people or other adults in the same household, family network or setting.

Where staff become aware of domestic abuse, exploitation, substance misuse, mental health crisis, unsafe caring arrangements, medical neglect, coercive control, or serious violence affecting an adult, they must consider whether any child or other adult may also be at risk.

Where a child may be affected, the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy must be followed.

16. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

Safeguarding information will be handled sensitively and shared only with those who need to know. Confidentiality must not prevent action being taken to protect an adult or another person from harm. Information sharing will be lawful, necessary, proportionate and recorded.

Records will be stored securely in accordance with the Privacy and Data Protection Policy.

17. Safer Recruitment, Training and Supervision

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Pony Partnerships CIC will promote safer practice through:

- safer recruitment and DBS checks where required;
- induction;
- safeguarding adults' awareness training;
- Prevent awareness where relevant;
- awareness of online abuse, cyber-enabled abuse, exploitation, and coercive control;
- awareness of adults in positions of trust and professional boundaries;
- allergy awareness, medical needs, and emergency response arrangements where relevant to role;
- supervision and reflective practice;
- clear reporting procedures;
- a culture where concerns can be raised safely.

Prevent concerns involving adults with care and support needs will be treated as safeguarding concerns. The Prevent duty guidance explains that Prevent sits alongside existing safeguarding duties and is intended to support people susceptible to radicalisation.

18. Complaints, Whistleblowing and Concerns

Concerns about safeguarding practice may be raised through the Complaints and Feedback Policy. Staff, associates, and volunteers who raise safeguarding concerns in good faith will be supported and must not be victimised.

Where a concern relates to unsafe, unlawful, or inappropriate practice, it should be raised promptly with the DSL, Deputy DSL, or a Director.

19. Responsibilities

- Board of Directors: Responsible for ensuring appropriate adult safeguarding arrangements are in place and reviewed.
- CEO/DSL: Responsible for implementing this policy and overseeing adult safeguarding practice.
- Staff, Associates and Volunteers: Responsible for following this policy, remaining alert to signs of abuse or neglect, reporting concerns promptly, recording concerns accurately, maintaining professional boundaries and cooperating with safeguarding procedures.
- Participants, Families and Commissioners: Responsible for sharing relevant information that may support safety and wellbeing.

20. Review

This policy will be reviewed annually, or sooner if:

- legislation or statutory guidance changes;
- local safeguarding procedures change;
- a serious safeguarding concern identifies a need for review;
- organisational practice changes.

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