

Procedures and practices for safeguarding one another

Take Heart Support Group has been advised that it must have a "Safeguarding Policy". The Care Act 2014 replaced the term "vulnerable adult" with "adult with care and support needs", referring to over-eighteens with physical or mental health needs. Members of Take Heart have a significant physical health history, and thus come under the Act's requirements.

Members recognise that, being a support group, we have mutual responsibilities to one another. Official policies are directed at professional and voluntary carers, but we ourselves need to know what is required by the Law.

The Group is appointing a "Named Safeguarding Adults Lead", to whom all allegations of personal harm or abuse should be reported; he or she will discuss the allegations with the tutor who holds the medical history of the person concerned, and then inform the Safeguarding team of the person's Local Authority, or the Police in an emergency. The matter is then out of our hands. The appropriate authority will inform our "Named Safeguarding Adults Lead" of the outcome of their investigation. Anyone, of course, as a citizen, has the right and duty personally to report suspicious harm or abuse to the police or the local authority, who have the duty of making the person safe.

In the meantime, as we are members of a mutual support group, the tutor may discuss with some or all of the relevant class what we should do, or avoid doing. Tutors and members of the management committee will have a full copy of the Group's Policy, and a copy will be kept at each class venue which members may read.