Khyber Medical University Research Safeguarding Policy

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Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to protect people, particularly children, at risk adults and other research participants, from any harm that may be caused due to their coming into contact with Khyber Medical University (KMU). This includes harm arising from:

- The conduct of staff or personnel associated with KMU
- The design and implementation of KMU's programmes and activities

The policy lays out the commitments made by KMU, and informs staff and associated personnel of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

This policy does not cover:

- Sexual harassment in the workplace this is dealt with under Harassment Policy
- Safeguarding concerns in the wider community not perpetrated by KMU or associated personnel

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding means protecting peoples' health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. In our sector, we understand it to mean protecting people, including children and at-risk adults, from harm that arises from coming into contact with our staff or programmes.

Further definitions relating to safeguarding are provided in the glossary below.

Scope

- All staff contracted/Employed by KMU
- Associated personnel whilst engaged with work or visits related to KMU, including but not limited to the following: consultants; volunteers; contractors; programme visitors including journalists, celebrities and politicians

Policy Statement

KMU believes that everyone we come into contact with, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. KMU will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by staff or associated personnel.

KMU commits to addressing safeguarding throughout its work, through the three pillars of prevention, reporting and response.

Prevention

KMU responsibilities

KMU will:

- Ensure all staff have access to, are familiar with, and know their responsibilities within this policy
- Design and undertake all its programmes and activities in a way that protects people from any risk
 of harm that may arise from their coming into contact with KMU. This includes the way in which
 information about individuals in our programmes is gathered and communciated
- Implement stringent safeguarding procedures when recruiting, managing and deploying staff and associated personnel
- Ensure staff receive training on safeguarding at a level commensurate with their role in the organization
- Follow up on reports of safeguarding concerns promptly and according to due process

Staff responsibilities

Child safeguarding

KMU staff and associated personnel must not:

- Engage in sexual activity with anyone under the age of 18
- Sexually abuse or exploit children
- Subject a child to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, or neglect
- Engage in any commercially exploitative activities with children including child labour or trafficking

Adult safeguarding

KMU staff and associated personnel must not:

- Sexually abuse or exploit at risk adults
- Subject an at risk adult to physical, emotional or psychological abuse, or neglect

Protection from sexual exploitation and abuse

KMU staff and associated personnel must not:

- Exchange money, employment, goods or services for sexual activity. This includes any exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries of assistance
- Engage in any sexual relationships with beneficiaries of assistance, since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics

Additionally, KMU staff and associated personnel are obliged to:

- Contribute to creating and maintaining an environment that prevents safeguarding violations and promotes the implementation of the Safeguarding Policy
- Report any concerns or suspicions regarding safeguarding violations by an KMU staff member or associated personnel to the appropriate staff member

Enabling reports

KMU will ensure that safe, appropriate, accessible means of reporting safeguarding concerns are made available to staff and the communities we work with.

Any staff reporting concerns or complaints through formal whistleblowing channels (or if they request it) will be protected by KMU's Disclosure of Malpractice in the Workplace (Whistleblowing) Policy.

KMU will also accept complaints from external sources such as members of the public, partners and official bodies.

How to report a safeguarding concern

Staff members who have a complaint or concern relating to safeguarding should report it immediately to their Safeguarding Focal Point [Director ORIC] or line manager. If the staff member does not feel comfortable reporting to their Safeguarding Focal Point or line manager (for example if they feel that the report will not be taken seriously, or if that person is implicated in the concern) they may report to any other appropriate staff member. For example, this could be "The Registrar".

[safeguarding@kmu.edu.pk

Registrar@kmu.edu.pk]

Response

KMU will follow up safeguarding reports and concerns according to policy and procedure, and legal and statutory obligations (see Procedures for reporting and response to safeguarding concerns in Associated Policies).

KMU will apply appropriate disciplinary measures to staff found in breach of policy.

KMU will offer support to survivors of harm caused by staff or associated personnel, regardless of whether a formal internal response is carried out (such as an internal investigation). Decisions regarding support will be led by the survivor.

Confidentiality

It is essential that confidentiality in maintained at all stages of the process when dealing with safeguarding concerns. Information relating to the concern and subsequent case management should be shared on a need to know basis only, and should be kept secure at all times.

KMU Research Safeguarding Policy

Code of Conduct

Introduction

In keeping with its vision and values, KMU is committed to maintaining the highest degree of ethical conduct amongst all its staff and associated personnel. To help increase understanding, this Code of Conduct details KMU's expectations of employees in key areas.

Scope and purpose

This Code of Conduct applies to all contracted staff, international and local, employed by KMU. Adapted Codes of Conduct are applicable to volunteers, partners, contractors and suppliers.

The purpose of this Code of Conduct is to set out the conduct expected of KMU staff whilst under contract to the organisation, and forms part of all contracts of employment. The Code is applicable at all times. Breaches of the Code of Conduct are grounds for disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Whilst recognising that local laws and cultures differ considerably from one country to another, KMU is a Public sector Educational Institution, and therefore the Code of Conduct is developed from national, international and UN standards. KMU staff are expected to uphold local law wherever they operate, except where the Code of Conduct is more stringent, in which case the Code applies.

Code of Conduct Standards

As a KMU employee I will:

Uphold the integrity and reputation of KMU by ensuring that my professional and personal conduct is consistent with KMU's values and standards

- I will treat all people fairly with respect and dignity
- When working in an international context or travelling internationally on behalf of KMU, I will be observant of all local laws and be sensitive to local customs
- I will seek to ensure that my conduct does not bring KMU into disrepute and does not impact on or undermine my ability to undertake the role for which I am employed
- I will not work under the influence of alcohol or use, or be in possession of, illegal substances on KMU premises or accommodation

Not engage in abusive or exploitative conduct

- I will not engage in sexual activity with children (persons under the age of 18). Mistaken belief in the age of a child is not a defence
- I will not exchange of money, employment, goods or services for sex, including sexual favours or other forms of humiliating, degrading or exploitative behaviour, is prohibited. This includes any exchange of assistance that is due to beneficiaries of assistance
- I will not engage in sexual relationships with beneficiaries of assistance, since they are based on inherently unequal power dynamics
- I will not engage in any commercially exploitative activities with children or vulnerable adults including child labour or trafficking
- I will not physically assault a child or vulnerable adult
- I will not emotionally or psychologically abuse a child or vulnerable adult

Ensure the safety, health and welfare of all KMU staff members and associated personnel (volunteers, partners, suppliers and contractors)

- I will adhere to all legal and organisational health and safety requirements in force at my location of work
- I will comply with any local security guidelines and be pro-active in informing management of any necessary changes to such guidelines
- I will behave in a manner such as to avoid any unnecessary risk to the safety, health and welfare of myself and others, including partner organisations and communities with whom we work

Be responsible for the use of information, assets and resources to which I have access by reason of my employment with KMU

- I will ensure that I use KMU assets and resources entrusted to me in a responsible manner and will account for all money and property
- I will not use KMU IT equipment, software or e-mail and social media platforms to engage in activity that is illegal under local or international law or that encourages conduct that would constitute a criminal offence. This includes any material that intimidates or harasses any group based on protected characteristics, or encourages extremism
- I will not use KMU IT equipment to view, download, create, distribute or save in any format inappropriate or abusive material including but not limited to pornography or depictions of child abuse

Perform my duties and conduct my private life in a manner that avoids conflicts of interest

- I will declare any financial, personal or family (or close intimate relationship) interest in matters of official business which may impact on the work of KMU
- I will not be involved in awarding benefits, contracts for goods or services, employment or promotion within KMU, to any person with whom I have a financial, personal, family (or close intimate relationship) interests
- I will seek permission before agreeing to being nominated as a prospective candidates or another official role for any political party
- I will not accept significant gifts or any remuneration from governments, communities with whom
 we work, donors, suppliers and other persons which have been offered tome as a result of my
 employment with KMU

Uphold confidentiality

 I will exercise due care in all matters of official business, and not divulge any confidential information relating to colleagues, work-related matters or any sensitive information unless legally required to do so

Complaints and reports

KMU staff are obligated to bring to the attention of the relevant manager any potential incident, abuse or concern that they witness, are made aware of, or suspect which appears to breach the Standards contained in this Code. KMU staff reporting concerns are protected by the Disclosure of Malpractice in the Workplace policy.

Staff members who have a complaint or concern relating to breach of the Code should report it immediately to their line manager. If the staff member does not feel comfortable reporting to their line manager (for example if they feel that the report will not be taken seriously, or if that person is implicated in the concern) they may report to any other appropriate staff member. For example, this could be a senior manager or a member of the HR Team.

Staff members receiving reports or concerns are obliged to action or refer the report immediately as per the KMU Complaints Policy and procedures

In accepting my appointment I undertake to discharge my duties and to regulate my conduct in accordance with the requirements of this Code

Name:

Signature:

Date:

Dealing with Safeguarding Reports

Purpose and scope

The purpose of this document is to provide procedures for dealing with reports of breach of KMU Safeguarding Policy, where the safeguarding violation is:
□ Against staff or members of the public,□ Perpetrated by staff, partners or associated personnel.
Procedures
1. Report is received
1.1 Reports can reach the organisation through various routes. This may be in a structured format such as a letter, e-mail, text or message on social media. It may also be in the form of informal discussion or rumour. If a staff member hears something in an informal discussion or chat that they think is a safeguarding concern, they should report this to the appropriate staff member in their organisation.
1.2 If a safeguarding concern is disclosed directly to a member of staff, the person receiving the report should bear the following in mind:
 □ Listen □ Empathise with the person □ Ask who, when, where, what but not why □ Repeat/ check your understanding of the situation □ Report to the appropriate staff member (see below)
1.3 The person receiving the report should then document the following information, using an Incident Report Form if there is one:
 Name of person making report Name(s) of alleged survivor(s) of safeguarding incident(s) if different from above Name(s) of alleged perpetrator(s) Description of incident(s) Dates(s), times(s) and location(s) of incident
1.4 The person receiving the report should then forward this information to the Safeguarding Focal Point or appropriate staff member within 24 hours.

Associated personnel includes (but is not limited to) consultants, volunteers, contractors, programme visitors including

ORIC

journalists celebrities and politicians

- 1.5 Due to the sensitive nature of safeguarding concerns, confidentiality must be maintained during all stages of the reporting process, and information shared on a limited 'need to know' basis only. This includes senior management who might otherwise be appraised of a serious incident.
- 1.6 If the reporting staff member is not satisfied that the organisation is appropriately addressing the report, they have a right to escalate the report, either up the management line, to the Board (or other governance structure), or to an external statutory body. The staff member will be protected against any negative repercussions as a result of this report. See KMU Complaints Policy and Disclosure of Malpractice in the Workplace Policy.

2. Assess how to proceed with the report

2.1 Appoint a Decision Maker for handling this report

2.2 Determine whether it is possible to take this report forward

- □ Does the reported incident(s) represent a breach of safeguarding policy?
 □ Is there sufficient information to follow up this report?
- 2.3 If the reported incident does not represent a breach of [NGO] Safeguarding Policy, but represents a safeguarding risk to others (such as a child safeguarding incident), the report should be referred through the appropriate channels (eg. local authorities) if it is safe to do so.
- 2.4 If there is insufficient information to follow up the report, and no way to ascertain this information (for example if the person making the report did not leave contact details), the report should be filed in case it can be of use in the future, and look at any wider lesson learning we can take forward.
- 2.5 If the report raises any concerns relating to children under the age of 18, **seek expert advice immediately**. If at any point in the process of responding to the report (for example during an investigation) it becomes apparent that anyone involved is a child under the age of 18, the Decision Maker should be immediately informed and should seek expert advice before proceeding.
- 2.6 If the decision is made to take the report forward, ensure that you have the relevant expertise and capacity to manage a safeguarding case. **If you do not have this expertise in-house, seek immediate assistance**, through external capacity if necessary.
- 2.7 Clarify what, how and with whom information will be shared relating to this case. Confidentiality should be maintained at all times, and information shared on a need-to-know basis only. Decide which information needs to be shared with which stakeholder information needs may be different.
- 2.8 You may have separate policies depending on the type of concern the report relates to. For example workplace sexual harassment is dealt with through the KMU's Anti Bullying and Harassment policy.

Bond Safeguarding 3

If there isn't a policy for the type of report that has been made, follow these procedures.

2.9 Check your obligations on informing relevant bodies when you receive a safeguarding report. These include (but are not limited to):

☐ Funding organisations
☐ Umbrella bodies/networks
☐ Statutory bodies
Some of these may require you to inform them when you receive a report, others may require information on completion of the case, or annual top-line information on cases. When submitting information to any of these bodies, think through the confidentiality implications very carefully.
3. Appoint roles and responsibilities for case management
3.1 If not already done so (see above), appoint a Decision Maker for the case. The Decision Maker should be a senior staff member, not implicated or involved in the case in any way.
3.2 If the report alleges a serious safeguarding violation, you may wish to hold a case conference. This should include:
□ Decision Maker
□ Person who received the report (such as the focal point, or manager)□ HR manager
☐ Safeguarding adviser (or equivalent) if there is one
The case conference should decide the next steps to take, including any protection concerns and support needs for the survivor and other stakeholders (see below).
4. Provide support to survivor where needed/requested
4.1 Provide appropriate support to survivor(s) of safeguarding incidents. Nb. this should be provided as a duty of care even if the report has not yet been investigated. Support could include (but its not limited to)
☐ Psychosocial care or counseling
☐ Medical assistance
☐ Protection or security assistance (for example being moved to a safe location)
All decision making on support should be led by the survivor.
5. Assess any protection or security risks to stakeholders
5.1 For reports relating to serious incidents: undertake an immediate risk assessment to determine

- 5.1 For reports relating to serious incidents: undertake an immediate risk assessment to determine whether there are any current or potential risks to any stakeholders involved in the case, and develop a mitigation plan if required.
- 5.2 Continue to update the risk assessment and plan on a regular basis throughout and after the case as required.

6. Decide on next steps

6.1 The Decision Maker decides the next steps. These could be (but are not limited to)

\square No further action (for example if there is insufficient information to follow up, or the report
refers to incidents outside the organisation's remit)
☐ Investigation is required to gather further information
☐ Immediate disciplinary action if no further information needed
☐ Referral to relevant authorities

6.2 If the report concerns associated personnel (for example contractors, consultants or suppliers), the decision making process will be different. Although associated personnel are not staff members, we have a duty of care to protect anyone who comes into contact with any aspect of our programme from harm. We cannot follow disciplinary processes with individuals outside our organisation, however decisions may be made for example to terminate a contract with a supplier based on the actions of their staff.

6.3 If an investigation is required and the organsiation does not have internal capacity, identify resources to conduct the investigation. Determine which budget this will be covered by.

7. Manage investigation if required

7.1 Refer to the organisation's procedures for investigating breaches of policy. If these do not cover safeguarding investigations, use external guidelines for investigating safeguarding reports, such as the CHS Alliance Guidelines for Investigations.

8. Make decision on outcome of investigation report

- 8.1 The Decision Maker makes a decision based on the information provided in the investigation report. Decisions relating to the Subject of Concern should be made in accordance with existing policies and procedures for staff misconduct.
- 8.2 If at this or any stage in the process criminal activity is suspected, the case should be referred to the relevant authorities *unless this may pose a risk to anyone involved in the case*. In this case, the Decision Maker together with other senior staff will need to decide to decide how to proceed. This decision should be made bearing in mind a risk assessment of potential protection risks to all concerned, including the survivor and the Subject of Concern.

9. Conclude the case

- 9.1 Document all decisions made resulting from the case clearly and confidentially.
- 9.2 Store all information relating to the case confidentially, and in accordance with [NGO] policy and local data protection law.
- 9.3 Record anonymised data relating to the case to feed into organisaitonal reporting requirements (eg. serious incident reporting to Board, safeguarding reporting to donors), and to feed into learning for dealing with future cases.

Disclosure of Malpractice in the Workplace/Research Program/Research Project Policy

Purpose

At KMU, it is vital that everyone who works for us maintains the highest standards of conduct, integrity and ethics, and complies with local legislation. If an employee, volunteer, partner, consultant or contractor has any genuine concerns about malpractice in the workplace, we wish to encourage them to communicate these without fear of reprisals and in the knowledge that they will be **protected from victimisation and dismissal**.

This policy does not form part of an employees' terms and conditions of employment and may be subject to change at the discretion of management.

Malpractice includes (but is not limited to) the issues listed below:

- Financial wrongdoing including theft, bribery, fraud, money laundering and aid diversion
- A failure to comply with any legal obligations
- Sexual misconduct, including sexual abuse, harassment or exploitation (see KMU Safeguarding Policy)
- Abuse or exploitation of children, vulnerable adults or beneficiaries (see KMU Safeguarding Policy as above)
- Breach of KMU safeguarding policy
- Abuse of position
- Danger to the health and safety of individuals or damage to the environment
- Improper conduct or unethical behaviour
- Activity which would bring the organisation into serious disrepute
- The deliberate concealment of information relating to any of the matters listed above

If you have a genuine concern and have a reasonable belief it is in the public interest, even if it is later discovered that you are mistaken, under this policy you will not be at risk of losing your job or from suffering any form of retribution as a result. This assurance will not be extended to an individual who maliciously raises a matter they know to be untrue or who is involved in any way in the malpractice. Those found to be making false allegations maliciously will have disciplinary action taken against them.

Malpractice is not a complaint about the performance and behaviour of a manager or other work colleague towards you. Such complaints will be directed for action to KMU's HR policies and procedures.

If you genuinely believe that the actions of someone who works for KMU could lead to or has resulted in malpractice, please follow the procedure below.

Please note this procedure is not intended to replace KMU's Grievance Procedures, which continues to be the appropriate way to raise personal issues relating to the specific job or employment.

1. Raise the matter with your line manager, who will consult with the appropriate contact point. If you feel that you are unable to raise the matter with your line manager, and you are able to, raise it with a more senior manager.

At the point of raising a concern it would be useful for you to share information describing:

- Whether anyone is at immediate risk of harm?
- What happened? If possible make note of dates, times, places, people.
- Who is involved?
- How do you know about it?
- When were you first concerned about it?
- Have you told anybody about it?
- Was any action taken?

All managers should:

- Report incidents of theft, fraud, or corruption immediately to KMU high ups/statutory body
- Report Safeguarding concerns relating to sexual abuse or exploitation of children, vulnerable adults, beneficiaries or any KMU representative to KMU's Safeguarding lead/focal point
- Report any other incidents of malpractice in the workplace to your HR team, or to the Head of Human Resources
- 2. A decision will be made on whether it is appropriate to handle such complaints under this policy. Where not appropriate the complainant will be informed and their permission sought to divert the issue to the appropriate HR procedure.
- 3. When matters are reported to the concerned focal person, the relevant applicable policy will be followed. If an investigation is conducted, the outcome may involve taking disciplinary action if misconduct has been proved, which may include dismissal.
- 4. When matters are reported to the Safeguarding lead, KMU's Safeguarding Investigation Guidelines will be followed. If an investigation is conducted, the outcome may involve taking disciplinary action if misconduct has been proved, which may include dismissal.

You will be notified once the matter has been resolved, but outcomes are subject to confidentiality and may not be communicated.

KMU will take appropriate action, which may end in dismissal, in accordance with the relevant procedure against any employee, volunteer or consultant who:

- Has been found to be victimising another individual for using this procedure, or deterring them from reporting genuine concerns under it.
- Made a disclosure maliciously that is known to be untrue or without reasonable grounds for believing that the information supplied was accurate.

Frequently asked questions

What if the line manager is involved in the alleged malpractice in some way?

If the line manager is involved in the alleged malpractice in some way, the matter should be raised with the next senior manager in the management line. Concerns regarding financial wrongdoing may be raised directly with the concerned focal person and concerns relating to sexual abuse or exploitation of children, vulnerable adults, beneficiaries or any KMU representative to the Safeguarding lead.

Can the disclosure be made anonymously?

You are strongly encouraged not to make anonymous disclosures as details and further concerns cannot then be checked with you and this may seriously limit the ability of investigators to pursue your concerns. Nonetheless, all disclosures, made anonymously or otherwise, will be reviewed but lack of information may limit the nature, extent and outcome of the investigation.

Who will conduct the investigation?

Normally an independent person from within KMU will be appointed. On rare occasions, or for complex cases such as safeguarding, external investigation support may be sought.

What if the matter involves a criminal offence?

The issue may also be reported to the police if a criminal offence, such as fraud or theft, or sexual assault has been committed.

What if the matter is a complaint about the performance or behaviour of a manager or colleague against me?

Such complaints will be directed for action to the appropriate HR policy under unless the concerns relate to concerns of sexual misconduct or other forms of malpractice listed in this policy.

Complaints

Policy statement

Receiving feedback and responding to complaints is an important part of improving KMU's accountability. Ensuring our stakeholders can hold us to account will improve the quality of our work in all areas.

Scope

This policy applies to KMU and is global in its application. A complaint can be made by any supporter, partner organisation, community or individual with whom we work, or any member of the public whether an individual, company or other entity, in the Pakistan for anywhere else in the world.

Definitions

A complaint is an expression of dissatisfaction about the standards of service, actions or lack of action, by KMU or its staff and associated personnel. It is a criticism that expects a reply and would like things to be changed. Complaints could include the following (which is not an exhaustive list):

- Concern from someone we work with about the quality of programme delivery
- Concern from a member of the public or supporter about a particular fundraising approach or campaign action
- Concern about the behaviour of staff or associated personnel

A complaint has to be about some action for which KMU is responsible or is within our sphere of influence.

A complaint is **not**:

- A general inquiry about KMU's work
- A request for information
- A contractual dispute
- A request to amend records e.g. to correct an address, cancel a donation
- A request to unsubscribe from an KMU service e.g. a campaign newsletter or email

The complaints procedures do not apply to complaints that are subject to current investigation by any regulatory body or other legal or official authorities in the UK or other countries in which we operate. Such issues will be dealt with by the relevant regulatory body.

Procedures for making a complaint

It is hoped that most complaints or concerns about KMU's work or behaviour can and will be dealt with informally by staff or volunteers at a local level. However, it is recognised that not all issues can be resolved in this way and that a formal complaints mechanism is required for those occasions when an

individual or organisation wishes to make their complaint a matter of record and to receive a formal response.

How to make a complaint

All formal complaints should be made in writing either directly from the individual or organisation making the complaint or via someone acting on their behalf. See below for details about to whom to address a complaint.

Who can make a complaint?

This policy is global in application. A complaint can be made by:

- Any supporter
- Partner organisation
- Community or individual with whom we work
- Any member of the public whether an individual, company or other entity in the UK or around the world.

Who is not covered by this policy?

Complaints by staff are governed by KMU's procedures for dealing with problems in the workplace, and Anti Bullying and Harassment policy. Complaints relating to serious incidents such as fraud and corruption or safeguarding concerns will be dealt with through the relevant policy and procedures.

How to make a complaint

safeguarding@kmu.edu.pk

+92919217258

Glossary of Terms

Beneficiary of Assistance

Someone who directly receives goods or services from KMU's programme. Note that misuse of power can also apply to the wider community that the organisation serves, and also can include exploitation by giving the perception of being in a position of power.

Child

A person below the age of 18

Harm

Psychological, physical and any other infringement of an individual's rights

Psychological harm

Emotional or psychological abuse, including (but not limited to) humiliating and degrading treatment such as bad name calling, constant criticism, belittling, persistent shaming, solitary confinement and isolation

Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (PSEA)

The term used by the humanitarian and development community to refer to the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse of affected populations by staff or associated personnel. The term derives from the United Nations Secretary General's Bulletin on Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (ST/SGB/2003/13)

Safeguarding

Safeguarding means taking all reasonable steps to prevent harm, particularly sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment from occurring; to protect people, especially vulnerable adults and children, from that harm; and to respond appropriately when harm does occur.

This definition draws from our values and principles and shapes our culture. It pays specific attention to preventing and responding to harm from any potential, actual or attempted abuse of power, trust, or vulnerability, especially for sexual purposes.

Safeguarding applies consistently and without exception across our programmes, partners and staff. It requires proactively identifying, preventing and guarding against all risks of harm, exploitation and abuse and having mature, accountable and transparent systems for response, reporting and learning when risks materialise. Those systems must be survivor-centred and also protect those accused until proven guilty.

Safeguarding puts beneficiaries and affected persons at the centre of all we do.

Sexual abuse

The term 'sexual abuse' means the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.

Sexual exploitation

The term 'sexual exploitation' means any actual or attempted abuse of a position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another. This definition incudes human trafficking and modern slavery.

Survivor

The person who has been abused or exploited. The term 'survivor' is often used in preference to 'victim' as it implies strength, resilience and the capacity to survive, however it is the individual's choice how they wish to identify themselves.

At risk adult

Sometimes also referred to as vulnerable adult. A person who is or may be in need of care by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.