SAFEGUARDING – PRACTICAL ACTION

Purpose of this document:

This document is to be read in conjunction with our safeguarding policies which more fully detail our policies and procedures. Its purpose is to provide volunteers and staff with a clear understanding of what they need to do if a safeguarding situation arises.

What is Abuse - general definition and specific forms:

'Abuse' is not a legal term, but covers a number of ways in which a person may be deliberately harmed (legally or illegally), usually by someone who is in a position of power, trust or authority over them, or who may be perceived by that person to be in a position of power, trust or authority over them. The harm may be physical, psychological or emotional, or it may exploit the vulnerability of the person in more subtle ways. However, harm can also occur less consciously, through naivety, idealism or lack of awareness.

The 2014 Care Act identifies nine types of abuse, all of which have a psychological/emotional aspect; physical, sexual, organisational, domestic, discriminatory, financial/material abuse. There is also neglect/acts of omission, self-neglect and modern slavery.

Practical expression of our duty of care

You **MUST** report to the Buddhist Centre's Safeguarding Leads if you:

● Receive a disclosure of abuse.

● Suspect abuse is happening.

● Witness abuse or neglect.

What to do if someone alleges abuse

● Stay calm.

● Listen patiently.

● Reassure the person they are doing the right thing by telling you.

● Clarify issues of confidentiality early on. Make it clear that you may have

a legal duty to discuss their concerns with others, on a strictly need-to-know

basis. If at all possible gain their permission to do so.

● Explain what you are going to do.

● Write a factual account of what you have seen and heard, immediately.

Do not

● Appear shocked, horrified, disgusted or angry.

● Press the individual for details.

● Make comments or judgments other than to show concern. Your responsibility is to

take them seriously, not to decide whether what they are saying is true.

● Promise to keep secrets.

● Confront the alleged perpetrator.

● Risk contaminating the evidence by investigating matters yourself.

As soon as possible

● Remember these are complicated situations; your duty is to ensure the person in

question is safe.

● If you feel someone is in immediate danger call the Police directly on 999. If not, but

you think a crime has been committed contact West Midlands Police on 0345 113 5000.

● Report, as accurately as possible, what you have been told or what you have seen to the Buddhist Centre's Safeguarding Lead: Dharmashalin at dharmashalin@gmail.com or on 07779 148172. He will then contact the appropriate local bodies and Triratna Central Safeguarding. If he is not available then you could contact our Safeguarding Trustee Pasannamati her contact details are Pasannamati@gmail.com or 07946 033161. If they are not available then contact Triratna Central Safeguarding: safeguarding@triratna.community.

Normally the Safeguarding Lead would follow up any report.

If for some reason that is not possible, contact the Birmingham Safeguarding authorities via: the Adults and Communities social worker teams - they are also able to advise. E-mail:CSAdultSocialCare@birmingham.gov.uk, telephone 0121 303 1234 - out of hours emergency 0121 675 4806. Or visit www.bsab.org/how-to-report-abuse.

If it involves a child contact the Children's Advice and Support Service (CASS) on 0121 303 1888. Outside office hours 0121 675 4806 for the Emergency Duty Team. Or visit https://www.birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk/info/6/contact_us/38/worried_about_a_child

It is **not** your job to resolve the situation or decide what is right, simply pass the information and concern on to those with the experience and training necessary to resolve the situation.

Why should you report abuse?

It won't stop if you don't.
There could be other victims.
You have a duty of care.
The person being abused may not be able, for whatever reason, to report it themselves.

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