

The Charity of Marjorie Hurst

Policy on Protection of Vulnerable Adults

1 Statement of Policy

The Trustees and the Clerk of the Charity of Marjorie Hurst take the view, both corporately and individually, that every resident of its Silk Mill Street properties has the absolute right to live free from abuse. Trustees and the Clerk will always work to prevent abuse wherever possible, and where preventative measures fail, to deal sensitively and effectively with incidents of abuse. Where perceived necessary, members of the trustee body and the Clerk will be trained and supported in recognising, and dealing with, incidents of abuse. In so doing, they will always conduct themselves with respect for the dignity, privacy, independence and individuality of the victim or victims.

2 Definition of abuse

Abuse is mistreatment by any other person or persons that violates someone's human or civil rights.

Abuse can happen anywhere – in the person's own home, in a hospital or care home, in the street.

Abuse can consist of a simple act or repeated acts. It can vary from neglecting the person to treating someone with disrespect in a way which significantly affects their quality of life or limits their ability to access opportunities. It can also be behaviour which causes actual physical harm or suffering.

Abuse can be either deliberate or the result of ignorance, lack of training, knowledge or understanding.

3 Forms of abuse

- **Physical abuse** e.g. hitting, pushing, shaking, pinching, misusing medication, not giving adequate food or drink
- **Sexual abuse** including unwanted touching
- **Psychological or emotional abuse** such as threats, being deprived of social contact, humiliation, blaming, coercion, verbal abuse
- **Financial or material abuse** such as theft, fraud, misuse of property, possessions or benefits, misuse of bank accounts and cards
- **Neglect** including ignoring medical or physical care needs, withholding food or drink
- **Discriminatory abuse** such as harassment based on race, sexuality or a person's disability.

All forms and types of abuse are unlawful. Perpetrators face prosecution by the Courts in the United Kingdom.

4 What to do if abuse is suspected

Depending upon the circumstances of the particular case:

- Make sure that the person being abused is not in immediate danger
- If necessary seek medical treatment as a matter of urgency
- Inform the Charity's Clerk, Sarah Baron, immediately (see details below)
- Failing this, contact the Social Services team.

5 Responsibility

Any resident who feels that they are being abused in any manner should immediately contact the charity. The charity will then investigate any reports of abuse in conjunction with the appropriate authorities. This may involve seeking the successful prosecution of the guilty party or parties.

Contacts:

Sarah Baron, Clerk to the Trustees

Tel. 01565 640755

Email: mhurstcharity@gmail.com

Social Services, Cheshire East Council

Tel. 0300 1235010 or tel. 0300 1235022 (out of hours)

6 Staff Training

Appropriate staff training will be provided on a regular basis.