



SAFEGUARDING POLICY

- Vulnerable Adults

Good for the Souls work involves, in the main, adults with, or at risk of, mild to moderate mental ill health issues and who can be considered vulnerable. It is important that the people with whom we work feel safe at all times of contact with Good for the Soul.

DEFINITIONS

Throughout the following document, the following terms shall be used:

Good for the Soul refers to both the organisation by the same name and to all individuals, paid or voluntary, responsible for the management and direction of that organisation.

A vulnerable adult is any individual over the age of 18, who for any reason including learning or physical disability, limited use of the English language or personal circumstances may be considered to be at increased risk of abuse. They are also, or could be, in need of community care services by reason of mental health or other disability, age or illness. They are, or could be, unable to take care of themselves or unable to take care of themselves against significant harm or exploitation. In the case of Good for the Soul, the majority of our participants will be people suffering from, or at risk of, mental health issues and they are included in this definition.

INTRODUCTION

Good for the Soul believes that every vulnerable adult should have access to a positive artistic environment in which all participants can thrive both creatively and personally. Good for the Soul may be considered to be in a position of trust with respect to all individuals within its sessions, and where members are vulnerable it is necessary to ensure that their welfare, care and protection are actively planned for.

The key to planning for the welfare, care and protection of vulnerable adults is knowledge of each individual and his/her needs, experiences, hopes, fears and anxieties within the workshop environment. Good for the Soul will ensure that all vulnerable adults are treated as individuals with their progress, welfare and needs monitored and planned for. This policy will outline the ways in which a vulnerable adult's welfare and protection can be planned for through

procedures that emanate from knowledge of the individual's needs and development

GUIDELINES TO PROMOTE THE PROTECTION OF VULNERABLE ADULTS WITHIN GOOD FOR THE SOUL'S ACTIVITIES

1. Staff ratios:
Good for the Soul will strive to ensure that the ratios of artists to participants do not exceed 1:10 within workshops. Artists will offer a range of direct and indirect support experiences to ensure people are able to progress steadily to establish their own positions within the group with as much independence as possible – while at the same time being as “safe” as possible.
2. During workshops vulnerable adults will be supported by professional artists who:
 - a) Are trained in Mental Health First Aid
 - b) Hold Enhanced CRB clearance
 - c) (From October 2009) are Independent Safeguarding Authority Registered
 - d) Hold appropriate public liability insurance.
3. Liaison with vulnerable adults:
Individuals will always be consulted on the provision of their inclusive progress, welfare and care within Good for the Soul, and their views will inform all aspects of planning.
4. Dissemination of information:
Good for the Soul will ensure that information about the progress, welfare and care of individuals which can inform planning remains confidential.
5. Registration procedures:
Good for the Soul will ensure that in workshops vulnerable adults are registered on entering a session. This registration procedure will monitor absence and act as a fire register for all individuals within the session.
6. Participants have a right to expect a caring, safe, secure environment within Good for the Soul – free from abuse and discrimination of any sort. Contractors who are found practicing such abuse or discrimination will be subject to disciplinary procedures.
7. Where photographs/video is to be taken, a consent form must be completed by the participant

PROCEDURES

1. CONCERN FOR MENTAL HEALTH OF PARTICIPANTS

- 1.1 Should any participant show signs of deterioration in her/his condition or ask for help and support, artists should refer them to their case worker or the group leader. In the case of work under the PCT's 'Arts for Wellbeing' service, a report should be made to the Pioneering Care Partnership if;
 - o A participant does not attend a session they have signed up for
 - o A participant is distressed
 - o A participant leaves the session without explanation

2. RECORDING INFORMATION

- 2.1 All records should be signed and dated and placed on a central file.
- 2.2 Artists will be responsible for recording information about each session and for collecting evaluation information as appropriate. This will remain confidential and be returned to the project manager at the end of a series of workshops.
- 2.3 Access to records will be confined to designated staff. All records will be kept in a safe and secure place.

3. ABUSE BY CONTRACTOR

- 3.1 In the rare event that any contractor is suspected of abusing a vulnerable adult they will cease to be contracted to Good for the Soul.

ADOPTION OF THIS POLICY

This Policy was adopted by Good for the Soul CIC Ltd on the

day of , 2009 by:

Jane Dancer (Director)

Louise Taylor (Director)

Stephen Marshall (Director)