

The importance of the role of the community, voluntary and faith sector in safeguarding and introducing the tools and training available to the sector

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### **Philip Bell**





The Community, Voluntary and Faith Sector – including online community and support groups - have a different relationship with residents than those in statutory services (council, health etc.)

At the  $\checkmark$  heart of community we are well placed to identify a welfare or safeguarding concern and to understand where people could benefit from additional support.

#### We can help:

• To prevent abuse and neglect.

• People to access services that help safeguard them and others from potential harm.

• Protect victims of abuse.



As individuals and as representatives of organisations and groups, we hold a responsibility to safeguard our residents and communities, and to ensure systems are in place to identify and take action when a risk or welfare concern is evident.

But there is now even more support available to help organisations and groups meet this responsibility:

- New training package for community leaders and small groups.
- New self-assessment audit tool.



#### Self Audit Tool

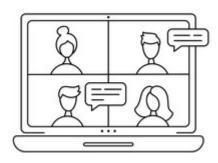
- Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board now has a self audit tool that has been created in partnership with our sector.
- Free to use and can be downloaded.
- You do not have to share your assessment results; it can remain an internal document.

The audit tool will help to confirm that you either have robust safeguarding processes in place or will help to identify an action plan to strengthen these.

A review of your safeguarding processes are recommended annually and should be signed off by your committee or trustee board.

For online groups who may not have a committee or board, administrators should still be mindful of the role they can play to safeguard their members and subscribers.







#### Why should I do this?

- Safeguarding is everybody's business and responsibility.
- Safeguarding systems protect your beneficiaries/members as well as your volunteers, paid workers and trustee/committee members.
- Routinely required when applying for funds.
- Reassuring for the public.

#### 'What Good Looks Like' campaign

### How to choose care, help and support for adults and children that is safe

Bracknell Forest



#### Pick up your leaflets today or go to www.bracknellforestsafeguarding.org.uk

The Bracknell Forest Safeguarding Board wants you to choose wisely and has produced leaflets that highlight what you should expect, questions to ask and where to go for further information, help or advice.

Keeping adults safe: How to choose care, help and support safely information for internation for



Keeping your children safe: How to choose clubs, groups, help and support safely Information for Parents



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If you think that a child is at risk of being harmed or neglected please call **01344 352005** and for adults call **01344 351500**. If you think there is immediate danger do not hesitate, call the police on 999. If you see something, are told something or something doesn't feel right you need to report it.

### Don't ignore it, report it!

# 01344 351500 (adults)

# 01344 352005 (children)

For queries that do not concern the welfare of an individual but where an organisation or group would benefit from support and advice:





Bracknell Forest

SAFEGUARDING BOARD

01344 304404 reception@involve.community

01344 266899 info@theark.org.uk

bfsb.org.uk