

Policy 34 Protection of Adults

Owner: ILF Scotland

Subject: Protection (Safeguarding) of Adults

Version: 2.0

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2015 Date Reviewed:

19th October 2015

Next Review:

19th October 2017

For all ILF Scotland staff, this policy must be read in conjunction with Protection Policy and Procedure Guidance dated November 2015.

1.1 Background

Promoting the protection of adults is a key duty for all staff and is integral to our policies, procedures and values. The health, safety and welfare of all persons who use ILF Scotland services are of paramount importance. All activity associated with the ILF Scotland process must be carried out in accordance with this principle, with a view to ensuring that services meet the identified needs of individual recipients in a manner which promotes and respects their independence and affords them choice in the way the service is provided, while maintaining their safety.

1.2 As a support fund to adults, ILF Scotland does not work directly with children. Concerns for a child's health, safety or welfare might arise in connection with children in a household visited by our staff or children whose circumstances have come to the

attention of ILF Scotland staff or those acting on its behalf. Any ILF Scotland staff member who has any concerns for a child should report these to the Local Authority (Or Health and Social Care Trust in Northern Ireland) where the child is resident.

- 1.3** The Adult and Support Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 defines ‘Adults at risk’ of harm or self-harm as adults who:
- a) Are unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests,
 - b) are at risk of harm, and
 - c) because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

In Northern Ireland the broad principles of safeguarding are similar, but also include life circumstances. See Protection Policy Guidance for more details.

- 1.4** Notwithstanding the duty to report concerns of harm, ILF Scotland facilitates recipients to continue to exercise choice and control, and to use their funding in an outcome focused way to lead independent lives. ILF Scotland promotes positive risk taking to enable recipients to lead independent lives.
- 1.5** Abuse may be of a physical, psychological, sexual, financial, neglectful or discriminatory nature or other type. This could be a single act or repetitive acts.
- 1.6** Examples include:
- Where a third party is using an adult’s money for other purposes.
 - Where pressure is put on a vulnerable adult for care tasks to be performed by somebody who they do not wish to do so. (Children lack legal capacity in this regard under age 16.)

- Where a child or vulnerable adult is being forced to take part in sexual activities they have neither the capacity nor the ability to consent to.

2.1 Policy

2.2 Local Authorities and Health Trusts have a statutory responsibility for protecting children and adults. In addition, ILF Scotland considers that all staff have a duty to report concerns of harm. Our policy is if any ILF Scotland staff member becomes aware of potential or actual harm, it will act **with or without the consent** of the ILF Scotland recipient or of the person providing the information by way of referral to the relevant Local Authority or Health Trust using the agreed referral form or by telephone.

2.3 Where possible any concerns of harm should be discussed with the staff member's line manager or a member of the Senior Management team in ILF Scotland. However, this does not stop any staff member reporting concerns immediately to the relevant Local Authority or Health Trust.

2.4 Any harm reported to ILF Scotland will be recorded and followed up as appropriate to ensure ILF Scotland recipients' safety and funds are protected.