

## **VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY**

Foggys "invisible illness" Support are aware that many sections of the Adult population are also vulnerable to practices of an abusive nature and will be vigilant in seeking to protect vulnerable adults either in terms of general support and advice or in facilitating support from statutory agencies whilst respecting the person/s rights of confidentiality and their wishes in taking actions towards eradicating such abusive practices.

We embrace the social model of disability and support anti discriminatory practices towards vulnerable members of our society. Any and all reports of any abuse (of any category) towards members, volunteers or trustees would not be tolerated and appropriate action would be taken by the designated committee members.

Types of abuse:

- Physical abuse - This includes hitting, pushing, scalding, hair pulling, shaking, pinching, kicking, misuse of medicines, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.
- Sexual abuse - This includes rape and sexual assault, sexual acts to which the adult has not consented, or could not consent to, or was pressured into consenting.
- Emotional abuse - This includes emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, bullying, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or being prevented/ withdrawn from receiving services or supportive networks.
- Financial abuse - This includes theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- Neglect and Acts of Omission - This includes not meeting appropriate medical or physical care needs, or withholding the necessities of life such as food, heating and medicines which causes the person to suffer.
- Discriminatory Abuse - This includes any abuse or harassment because of a person's race, gender, sexuality, disability or age.
- Institutional Abuse - This includes abuse as result of persistently poor care or a rigid and oppressive regime in a care setting.

This policy has been adopted by Foggys “invisible illness” Support through the Committee who remain responsible for its review on an annual basis.

Date adopted: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017

Date for review: 7<sup>th</sup> March 2018

Signed:

Deb Cooke  
**Group Founder**

The following designated person has been nominated by this organisation to refer allegations or suspicions of neglect or abuse to the statutory authorities. The designated person is Deb Cooke.

In the absence of the designated person, the matter should be brought to the attention of the second designated person. The second designated person is Cheryl Heyne.