

ARC UK's

ADULT SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Safeguarding means protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect. It is a broad continuum of activity and ranges from empowerment of communities, through prevention and early intervention, to risk assessment and management, including protective intervention. In summary, safeguarding includes activity which prevents harm from occurring and activity which protects adults at risk where harm has occurred.

ARC UK is committed to safeguarding adults and has measures in place to prevent and respond to incidents should they arise.

It does this by:

- Promoting a shared understanding across all those working on behalf of ARC UK of our approach to safeguarding
- Having country specific procedures, recognising the different policy/legislative context
- Monitoring patterns and trends
- Producing an Annual Report

Underpinning principles

All of ARC UK's Safeguarding activities will be guided by five underpinning principles.

1. A rights-based approach: to promote and respect an adult's right to be safe and secure; to freedom from harm and coercion; to equality of treatment; to the protection of the law; to privacy; to confidentiality; and freedom from discrimination
2. An empowering approach: to empower adults to make informed choices about their lives, to maximise their opportunities to participate in wider society, to keep themselves safe and free from harm and enabled to manage their own decisions in respect of exposure to risk
3. A person-centred approach: to promote and facilitate full participation of adults in all decisions affecting their lives taking full account of their views, wishes and feelings, and where appropriate, the views of others who have an interest in their safety and well-being
4. A consent-driven approach: to make the presumption that an adult has the ability to give or withhold consent; to make informed choices; to help inform choice through the provision of information, and the identification of options and alternatives; to have particular regard to the needs of individuals who require support with communication, including advocacy or who lack the capacity to consent; intervening in the life of an adult against his or her wishes only in particular circumstances, for very specific purposes and always in accordance with the law
5. A Collaborative Approach: to acknowledge that adult safeguarding will be most effective when it has the full support of partners across the statutory, voluntary and independent

sectors working together and is delivered in a way where roles, responsibilities and lines of accountability are clearly defined and understood.

This policy should be read alongside our policies and procedures contained within ARC UK's Staff Handbook, including:

- Recruitment & Selection
- Supervision & Support
- Complaints
- Disciplinary
- Whistleblowing
- Data Protection
- Code of Conduct
- Use of Internet, Email & Social Media.

Who this policy is for?

This policy applies to all those working on behalf of ARC UK. Examples include Trustees, paid staff, associate workers including trainers, consultants, agency staff, volunteers and students.

The Adult Safeguarding Infrastructure within ARC UK

There is an Adult Safeguarding Champion in each of the four countries of the UK. They each report to the UK Managing Director, who provides reports to the Board of Trustees.

Frequency of Review

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years.