



British Veterans Fencing Adults at Risk Policy

Introduction

BVF is committed to ensuring that all members can participate in their fencing in a safe and protected way. This policy compliments the British Fencing Adults at Risk Policy and should be read in conjunction with it, to give more information on legislation and Safeguarding Principles. This policy identifies the steps that everyone involved in BVF should follow to protect Adults, particularly those at risk through age, and how to deal with concerns that may arise.

Definitions

Adults at Risk

An Adult at Risk is defined as any person aged 18 years who;

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect; and;
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

Adult Safeguarding

Protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted. Safeguarding is everybody's business.

Adult Abuse

Adult Abuse is the violation of an individual's human rights by another person or persons. Every adult should be able to live safely, free from abuse and neglect. Incidents of abuse and neglect may be one-off or multiple and affect one person or more. Adults may also be affected by more than one type of abuse at the same time.

Elder Abuse

Elder abuse can be defined as "a single, or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person".¹

Definitions of Abuse for Adults at Risk include;

Physical Abuse	<p>This can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • any form of physical harm • the misuse of medication • inappropriate restraint or sanctions <p>It doesn't have to be repeated, any single act of physical abuse is serious.</p>
Psychological Abuse	<p>This can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • threats of harm or abandonment

¹ World Health Organisation

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • humiliation • controlling behaviour • intimidation • coercion • verbal abuse • isolation. <p>This type of abuse can be very subtle and tricky to identify. It can even be experienced alongside overwhelming feelings of love and happiness. Often, it's a case of one person manipulating another to feel confused and a sense that they are to blame for the abuse they are experiencing.</p>
Domestic Abuse	<p>Domestic abuse is any form of abuse committed by intimate partners, former partners or family members. Many of the types of abuse listed here (physical abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse) will also be domestic abuse if they are perpetrated by a partner or family member. It also includes "honour" based violence.</p>
Financial abuse	<p>This can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • theft • fraud • exploitation in relation to a person's financial affairs. • restricting, misappropriating or misusing, a person's access to money, employment, benefits or possessions. • pressurising a person about their will, a lasting power of attorney, property and inheritance. <p>Anyone can commit financial abuse – it can be a relative, partner or a scammer.</p> <p>Abuse can take the form of neglect i.e. a person's financial responsibilities such as paying rent or mortgage, medical expenses or insurance, utility bills, or property taxes, are ignored, and the person's bills are not paid.</p>
Neglect	<p>This can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wilfully ignoring medical or physical care needs • failure to provide access to appropriate health or social care. <p>Common examples of neglect are limiting access to food, drink, medication or heating; restricting support to personal care or not supporting a person to attend medical appointments.</p>
Self-neglect	<p>This can include a wide range of activities such as hoarding or neglecting personal care which may impact on your own health or others.</p> <p>Self-neglect must be considered alongside the Mental Capacity Act. We have the right to make what others may see as unwise decisions, even when they may impact on our long-term well-being.</p>
Sexual abuse	<p>This can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sexual assault • sexual exposure • rape • sexual harassment • pressurising a person to perform or take part in sexual acts they do not consent to.

	This can also include non-contact sexual acts such as indecent exposure, online abuse and non-consensual pornographic activities
Organisational Abuse	This can include an incident or pattern of incidents involving ongoing ill treatment within an organisation. This could involve neglect, acts of omission or poor practise as a result of inadequate structures, policies and practise.
Modern Slavery	This can include slavery, human trafficking and domestic servitude. This can appear in different forms, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • forced prostitution • forced begging • forced criminal behaviour • forced work • forced marriage • forced organ donation.
Discriminatory abuse	This is unequal treatment based on protected characteristics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age • disability • gender reassignment • marriage and civil partnership • pregnancy and maternity • race • religion and belief • sex or sexual orientation.

Additional types of harm to be aware of.

There are four additional types of harm that are not included in The Care Act, but they are also relevant to safeguarding adults.

1 Cyber Bullying

Cyber bullying occurs when someone repeatedly makes fun of another person online, or repeatedly picks on another person through emails or text messages. It can also involve using online forums with the intention of harming, damaging, humiliating, or isolating another person. It includes various different types of bullying, including racist bullying, homophobic bullying, or bullying related to special education needs and disabilities. The main difference is that, instead of the perpetrator carrying out the bullying face-to-face, they use technology as a means to do it.

2 Forced Marriage

This is a term used to describe a marriage in which one or both of the parties are married without their consent or against their will. A forced marriage differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties consent to the assistance of a third party in identifying a spouse. The Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 make it a criminal offence to force someone to marry.

3 Mate Crime

A “mate crime” is when “vulnerable people are befriending by members of the community who go on to exploit and take advantage of them” (Safety Network Project, ARC). It may not be an illegal act, but it still has a negative effect on the individual. A mate crime is carried out by someone the adult knows, and it often happens in private. In recent years there have been a number of Serious Care Reviews relating to people with a learning disability who were seriously harmed, or even murdered, by people who purported to be their friend.

4 Radicalisation

The aim of radicalisation is to inspire new recruits, embed extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals to the legitimacy of a cause. This may be direct through a relationship, or through social media.

What to do if you have concerns

If you become aware or suspect that abuse or poor practice is taking place you must report it.

Remember it is not your responsibility to decide whether or not someone has been abused. It is everyone's responsibility to respond and report concerns.

If the person is at immediate risk, then contact the Police on 999.

You can speak to your fencing club Welfare Officer. Before raising your concern with the Officer, you must inform the person you are concerned and seek their views on what they would like to happen before passing on your concerns.

It is also important that you keep the person informed about any decisions and action taken about them and always consider their need and wishes.

Concerns should be reported using the BF Incident Report Form or contact BF on 07526 003030 or by email to equality@britishfencing.com

Other sources for help, advice and action;

- Adult Social Care - Local council
- Age UK Advice Line 0800 678 1174
- Action on Elder Abuse helpline Telephone: 0808 808 8141 available Mon – Fri 9am - 5pm
Website <https://wearehourglass.org/>
- Domestic Abuse helpline 0808 2000 247
- Pharmacies – ask staff for 'ANI' and they can provide immediate help.