

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Policy

Policy Pack 2026

Safeguarding is embedded across all areas of MAVUK's work and underpins how we support children, young people, adults, families, and communities.

Organisation	Mothers Against Violence UK (MAVUK)
Primary safeguarding contact	Ian Cameron Swanston Chairperson office@mavuk.org 07869751806
Version	2026 edition

At a glance

Primary adult safeguarding contact: Ian Cameron Swanston | office@mavuk.org | 07869751806

Emergency: call 999 if an adult is in immediate danger or needs urgent medical help.

This document updates MAVUK’s adult safeguarding approach using current adults-at-risk terminology and Care Act principles.

Document control

Document owner	MAVUK
Policy lead	Ian Cameron Swanston, Chairperson
Applies to	Trustees, staff, volunteers, facilitators, sessional workers, and contractors
Approval date	19 April 2026
Review frequency	Annual or sooner if guidance or practice changes
Next review due	19 April 2027

1. Policy statement

MAVUK is committed to safeguarding adults who may be at risk of abuse or neglect and to promoting dignity, choice, safety, and wellbeing.

This policy uses the term adults at risk in line with current safeguarding practice, while recognising that legacy documents and some stakeholders may still use the term vulnerable adults.

2. Purpose and scope

This policy sets out MAVUK’s approach to preventing, recognising, reporting, and responding to concerns about adults at risk across counselling, mentoring, family support, outreach, community programmes, and volunteering.

It applies to trustees, staff, volunteers, sessional workers, facilitators, and contractors working on behalf of MAVUK.

3. Current legal framework

This 2026 edition is aligned to the Care Act 2014 and the Care and Support Statutory Guidance. Chapter 14 of that guidance states that it replaces the earlier No Secrets framework.

Relevant duties may also arise under the Mental Capacity Act 2005, Human Rights Act 1998, Equality Act 2010, Domestic Abuse Act 2021, data protection law, and criminal law.

4. Definition of an adult at risk

For safeguarding purposes, an adult at risk is an adult aged 18 or over who has needs for care and support, is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves from the risk or experience of abuse or neglect.

5. The six safeguarding principles

- Empowerment – supporting people to make informed choices and give consent where possible.
- Prevention – acting before harm occurs.
- Proportionality – responding in the least intrusive way that is consistent with safety.
- Protection – offering support and representation to those in greatest need.
- Partnership – working with agencies and communities to prevent and respond to abuse.
- Accountability – maintaining clear roles, decisions, and records.

6. Types of abuse and neglect

- Physical abuse
- Domestic abuse and coercive control
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Modern slavery
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational or institutional abuse
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Self-neglect

7. Mental capacity, consent, and voice

MAVUK will seek to involve adults at risk in decisions affecting them wherever possible.

Where an adult has capacity, their wishes, feelings, and desired outcomes should be taken seriously.

Where capacity is in doubt, advice should be sought and action taken in line with the Mental Capacity Act and the need to reduce or remove serious risk.

8. Recognising concerns

Safeguarding concerns may come from a direct disclosure, an observed injury, poor living conditions, financial irregularity, coercive relationships, repeated distress, fearfulness, controlling behaviour by others, self-neglect, or a pattern of poor care.

9. Immediate response to a disclosure or incident

- Make sure the person is safe.
- Call emergency services if there is immediate danger or urgent medical need.
- Listen, reassure, and establish basic facts only.
- Do not investigate, confront, or make promises you cannot keep.

MAVUK

- Create a factual record and report the concern to the safeguarding lead on the same working day where possible.

10. Reporting pathway

Adult safeguarding concerns should be reported to Ian Cameron Swanston, Chairperson, at office@mavuk.org or 07869751806.

Where the threshold is met, the safeguarding lead will make or coordinate a referral to adult social care, the police, or another relevant statutory agency.

11. Confidentiality and information sharing

Personal information will be handled sensitively and on a need-to-know basis.

Consent should be sought where appropriate, but lack of consent does not prevent information sharing where there is serious risk, a crime may have been committed, another person may be at risk, or a legal duty applies.

12. Safer practice and organisational responsibility

MAVUK will support safer practice through training, induction, supervision, clear boundaries, risk assessment, complaints handling, and escalation routes.

Concerns about poor care standards, exploitative conduct, or organisational abuse must also be reported and addressed.

13. Review

This policy should be reviewed annually and updated sooner if law, guidance, local arrangements, or MAVUK practice change.

Appendix A. Safeguarding reporting flow

1. Recognise a concern, disclosure, injury, pattern of risk, or unsafe behaviour.
2. Respond calmly, prioritise immediate safety, and call 999 if there is urgent danger.
3. Record what was seen, heard, or disclosed as soon as possible.
4. **Report the concern immediately, or on the same working day, to Ian Cameron Swanston at office@mavuk.org or 07869751806.**
5. The safeguarding lead will decide next steps, including referral to statutory services where required.
6. Store records securely and continue to support the individual appropriately.

Adult safeguarding reminder

Where possible, involve the adult and take account of their wishes and desired outcomes.

Consent matters, but it may be necessary to share information without consent where serious risk or crime is involved.

Appendix B. Cause for concern form

Complete this form as soon as possible after a disclosure, observation, or incident. Use the person's own words where you can and distinguish clearly between fact, observation, and opinion.

Date and time of concern

Name of adult at risk

Age / date of birth (if known)

Address / location (if known)

Name of person completing form

Role

What was seen, heard, or disclosed?

Immediate safety action taken

Description and location of any visible injuries or marks

Details of alleged abuser / source of concern (if known)

Who was informed and when?

Referral made to external agency?

Signature / date