



THE TURN AROUND PROJECT

ADULT SAFEGUARDING POLICY

Name	Adult Safeguarding Policy
Version	V6
Last Review	June 2025
Next Review	June 2026

1. Turnaround’s Vision, Values, Mission and Aims

1.1. Our Vision

Our vision is an inclusive community where everyone has hope and opportunity.

1.2. Our Mission

To work with society to enable people who have served sentences, in prison or in the community, to turn around their futures.

1.3. Our Values

WE NURTURE HOPE

- Each of us is more than our pasts. We use our past experiences to strengthen, and not to limit, our futures.

WE CREATE OPPORTUNITY

- We enable, encourage and support each other to pursue new futures.

WE ALL PLAY OUR PART

- Everyone works as part of the team, growing as individuals and helping to create more opportunities for others.

WE RESPECT EACH OTHER

- We all have strengths and a positive contribution to make, so whatever our backgrounds, we work together to achieve our goals.

2. General principles of this policy

- 2.1. This safeguarding policy applies to all involved in the delivery of any services by The Turnaround Project including trustees, staff, and volunteers.
- 2.2. This policy applies to adults that work in The Turnaround Project, avail of any of The Turnaround Project’s services or volunteer with The Turnaround Project.
- 2.3. This policy outlines Turnaround’s approach to preventing and reducing the risk of harm to adults who are at risk from abuse and/or neglect.
- 2.4. This policy recognises that everyone has a fundamental right to be safe. Whatever the cause, and wherever it occurs, harm caused to adults by abuse, exploitation or neglect unacceptable and everyone should strive to prevent harm to adults from abuse, exploitation or neglect.
- 2.5. The underpinning principle of this policy is to recognise and reduce the incidence of harm from abuse, exploitation or neglect of adults who are at risk and to ensure they have access to effective support and, where necessary, protective responses.

3. Definitions

- 3.1. Within this policy the term ‘**safeguarding**’ is used in its widest sense, that is, to encompass both activity which prevents harm from occurring in the first place and

activity which protects adults at risk where harm has occurred or is likely to occur without intervention.

3.2. **‘Adult at risk’** or ‘adult at risk of harm’ refers to a person who is aged 18 or over, whose exposure through abuse, exploitation or neglect (including self-neglect) may be increased by their:

a. Personal characteristics (*Personal characteristics may include, but are not limited to, age, disability, special educational needs, illness, mental or physical frailty or impairment of, or disturbance in, the functioning of the mind or brain*)

AND / OR

b. Life circumstances (life circumstances may include, but are not limited to, isolation, socio-economic factors and environmental living conditions).

3.3. An **‘Adult in need of protection’** is a person aged 18 or over, whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their:

a. personal characteristics

AND / OR

b. life circumstances

AND

c. who is unable to protect their own well-being, property, assets, rights or other interests;

AND

d. where the action or inaction of another person or persons is causing, or is likely to cause, him/her to be harmed.

To meet the definition of an ‘adult in need of protection’ either (a) or (b) must be present, in addition to both elements (c) and (d).

3.4. **‘Harm’** is the impact on the victim of abuse, exploitation or neglect. It is the result of any action whether by commission or omission, deliberate, or as the result of a lack of knowledge or awareness which may result in the impairment of physical, intellectual, emotional, or mental health or well-being.

3.5. **‘Abuse’** is ‘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 another individual or violates their human or civil rights’. It is the misuse of power and control that one person has over another. Abuse may be perpetrated by a wide range of people, including those who are usually physically and/or emotionally close to the individual and on whom the individual may depend and trust. This may include, but is not limited to, a partner, relative or other family member, a person entrusted to act on behalf of the adult in some aspect of their affairs, a service or care provider, a neighbour, a health or social care worker or professional, an employer, a volunteer

or another service user. It may also be perpetrated by those who have no previous connection to the individual.”

4. Responsibilities for adult safeguarding

4.1. The responsibility for the Adult Safeguarding Policy overall lies with The Turnaround Project Board of Trustees. In line with statutory guidance the Board will appoint a trustee with responsibility for safeguarding in The Turnaround Project.

4.2. Turnaround’s Adult Safeguarding Champion (ASC) is the Director. The ASC will:

- Ensure information and support for staff on adult safeguarding is provided within the organisation.
- Ensure that the organisation’s Adult Safeguarding Policy is disseminated, and support its implementation, throughout the organisation.
- Advise within the organisation regarding adult safeguarding training needs.
- Provide advice to staff or volunteers who have concerns about the signs of harm and ensure reporting to HSC Trusts where there is a safeguarding concern.
- Support staff to ensure that any actions take account of what the adult wishes to achieve (this does not prevent information being passed to relevant HSC Adult Protection team where serious harm may or is present).
- Establish contact with the HSC Trust Designated Adult Protection Officer (DAPO), PSNI and other agencies as appropriate.
- Ensure accurate and up to date records are maintained detailing all decisions made, the reasons for those decisions and any actions taken.
- Compile and analyse records of reported concerns to determine whether a number of low-level concerns are accumulating to become significant; and make records available for inspection by appropriate persons where required.

4.3. The ASC will lead on a decision as to whether any disclosure of harm or abuse constitutes a safeguarding concern, taking into account all the available evidence, concerns, the impact of harm, degree of risk and other matters relating to the individual and his or her circumstances. The responsibility for *recognising* emerging issues and opportunities for prevention, *responding* to concerns or taking actions, *recording* those concerns or actions appropriately, and *referring* to relevant agencies with regards to safeguarding will ultimately lie with the Director.

4.4. Implementation of the safeguarding policy is the responsibility of all staff and volunteers.

5. General Policy Statement

5.1. Safeguarding ‘Adults at Risk’ is a priority for The Turnaround Project. There can be a significant number of people who engage with The Turnaround Project who might be deemed as ‘vulnerable’ or ‘at risk’.

5.2. 'Adults at risk' should be safeguarded from all forms of abuse and neglect and Turnaround will endeavour to foster a culture where a rights-based, empowering, person-centred, consent-driven, and collaborative approach is present in all safeguarding activity.

- Rights-based – promoting and respecting an adult's rights to protection of the law, freedom from harm and coercion, privacy and confidentiality, equality of treatment, freedom from discrimination, safety and security.
- Empowering – empowering adults to keep themselves safe and free from harm in ways that manage exposure to risk and maximise opportunities to participate in wider society.
- Person-centred – promoting full participation of an adult in decisions affecting their life, taking full cognisance of their views and feelings, where safe and appropriate, as well as the views of others who are concerned for that individual's wellbeing.
- Consent driven – under the presumption of the adult's decision-making capacity and ability to make informed choices, including choices which may seem risky, and intervening in the life of an adult against their wishes only in extreme or emergency circumstances, for very specific purposes and in accordance with the law.
- Collaborative – acknowledging that safeguarding will be most effective when working in partnership with statutory, voluntary, community and other organisations.

5.3. Turnaround recognises its responsibilities under the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups (Northern Ireland) Order 2007, Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults Regional Adult Protection Policy, Mental Health (NI) Order, Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership guidelines and the Mental Capacity Act (NI) 2016.

5.4. Turnaround recognises its minimum requirement to safeguard adults who may be at risk by:

- Recognising that adult harm is wrong and that it should not be tolerated.
- Being aware of the signs of harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect.
- Reducing opportunities for harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect to occur; and
- Knowing how and when to report safeguarding concerns to HSC Trusts or the PSNI.

5.5. Turnaround will record and refer any/all concerns, suspicions or allegations of abuse or neglect to the relevant and lead agencies and partners, specifically local Health Trusts with authority to carry out safeguarding assessments and handle enquiries.

5.6. Turnaround will strive to raise awareness of safeguarding issues within the people and communities within which the charity works and will provide information to trustees, staff, volunteers and beneficiaries.

- 5.7. Turnaround will share information for the purposes of safeguarding in compliance with its statutory duty to comply when information is requested, ensuring any personal data is handled in line with Turnaround's Data Protection and GDPR policy.
- 5.8. Turnaround will ensure that it has in place robust internal procedures and clear lines of responsibility and accountability with regards to reporting safeguarding concerns.
- 5.9. Turnaround will provide staff with role-appropriate training to enable them to understand their roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding, and to be able to identify and report the signs of abuse.
- 5.10. Turnaround will comply with its responsibilities in relation to disclosure and barring, handling and assessing criminal convictions for the purposes of employment or volunteering for relevant and appropriate roles in the organisation.
- 5.11. Turnaround will provide support and supervision for staff to create a culture where staff and volunteers feel able to report safeguarding issues, including where they have concerns about a member of staff or volunteer in Turnaround.
- 5.12. Turnaround will take a zero-tolerance policy to abuse by Turnaround staff or volunteers and will investigate and address any suspected abuse through formal statutory procedures and its own internal disciplinary procedures.

6. Monitoring and Review

- 6.1. This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Board of Trustees.