

Dragon Bell Temple

Vulnerable Adults protection policy and guidelines

www.dragonbelltemple.org.uk
Registered charity no: 1142973

The purpose of this document

This document is to inform people who take part in the activities and services provided by Dragon Bell Temple, either at the temple itself or any offsite activity arranged by us. The document sets out the measures we have in place to protect both vulnerable adults and those who volunteer and/or engage with them as part of our congregation.

It sets out

- Practices and procedures contributing to the prevention of abuse of vulnerable adults and/or those who may be at risk in certain situations
- A course of action to be followed if abuse is suspected or allegations made

Our values

Dragon Bell Temple is a Buddhist organisation. Occasionally its activities may involve adults who may be considered to be vulnerable. We do not currently organise any activity or perform any functions that are primarily aimed at serving any of the groups listed below. It is possible though highly unlikely, that members of our charity or its supporters would engage in 'regulated activity' as described in the Department of Health's statement on 'Regulated activity (adults) – and the definition of 'regulated activity' (adults) as defined by the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 and updated 10th September 2012.

However, from time to time, adults who may be considered to be vulnerable visit us and it is possible that they could stay overnight, for the purpose of spiritual retreat. Additionally, as part of our practice, congregation members, including those who may be termed vulnerable, may seek spiritual advice from our resident prior or a congregation member. It is possible in these circumstances that statements made or questions asked by the vulnerable adult take the form of a disclosure of abuse.

Ensuring the sexual, physical and psychological safety of vulnerable adults involved in Dragon Bell Temple's activities is an expression of wisdom and compassion as taught by the Buddha.

The trustees of the Dragon Bell Temple recognise their responsibility to ensure the welfare of adults who may be vulnerable, and are committed to their protection. Trustees also understand that any allegations made or suspicions expressed must be acted upon

(See also our Child protection policy)

This policy and the guidance within it, aims to mitigate, as far as is possible, any potential harm and suffering to members of our congregation who may be termed as adults at risk, who seek refuge here and take part in any of our activities.

Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Ian Lucraft is our Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO)

Email: ianlucraft@hotmail.co.uk Phone: 07784363751

Who is a 'vulnerable adult'?

A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 years or over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is, or may be, unable to take care of themselves, or unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

A vulnerable adult may be a person who:

- Has a physical or sensory disability
- Is physically frail or has a chronic illness
- Has a mental illness or dementia
- Has a learning disability
- Is old and frail
- Misuses drugs and/or alcohol
- Has social or emotional problems
- Exhibits challenging behaviour
- Is at risk of domestic violence and abuse
- Is at risk of radicalisation (as per Prevent Strategy duties)

Whether or not a person is vulnerable in these cases will vary according to circumstances. Additionally, a person who does not fit any of the above categories may from time to time find themselves vulnerable or at risk in certain situations.

What is 'abuse'?

Abuse is the harming of a person usually by someone who is in a position of power, trust or authority over them, or who may be perceived by that person to be in a position of power, trust or authority over them. The harm may exploit the vulnerability of the victim in subtle and ways. Abuse is an intentional or unintentional act that harms, hurts or exploits another individual/s. Abuse can take many forms, but Dragon Bell Temple understands that no type of abuse is acceptable

Types of abuse

Physical abuse:

Physical abuse is deliberately hurting or injuring an individual/s. This could include hitting, smacking, pushing, shaking, spitting, pinching, scalding, misusing medication, inappropriate restraint, inappropriate physical sanctions or other ways of causing physical harm. Failure to thrive

Emotional/psychological abuse:

Emotional/psychological abuse is the attempt to scare, control or isolate an individual by intimidation or fear. It may involve deliberately telling someone that they are worthless, not giving them the opportunity to express their views, silencing or 'making fun' of them.

Sexual abuse

Sexual abuse involves a person being made to take part in sexual activity when they do not, or cannot, give consent. It may not involve physical contact as it can take place online; involve exposure to pornographic materials; being made to witness sexual acts. It can include sexual touching and all penetrative sex, but also things like indecent exposure and sexual harassment.

Neglect:

Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet an individual's basic and essential needs, either deliberately, or by failing to understand these. It includes ignoring a person's needs, or withholding essentials to meet needs, such as medication, food, water, shelter and warmth.

Online abuse:

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the internet, for example through social media, or mobile phones. Online abuse covers a wide range of behaviours and technologies. It can include trolling, stealing someone else's identity, cyber-stalking and cyber-bullying.

Financial:

Financial abuse can involve theft, fraud and exploitation, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits

Discriminatory:

Discriminatory abuse is unequal treatment based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation. It can include insulting language, harassment or ill-treatment due to these personal characteristics

Domestic violence and abuse:

Domestic abuse is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a personal or family relationship. The most common type of domestic abuse occurs in personal relationships, where a pattern of abusive behaviour is used by one partner to gain or maintain control over another intimate partner. It can also mean abuse between family members. It may involve one or more of the following: physical violence; sexual violence; emotional and/or psychological violence; spiritual control; cultural control and violence; verbal abuse; financial abuse

Dragon Bell Temple appreciates that more than one form of abuse can co – exist with another and also understands that the above list is not fully comprehensive.

Signs of abuse

Physical

NB Ageing processes can cause changes which are hard to distinguish from some aspects of physical assault e.g. skin bruising can occur due to blood vessels becoming fragile.

- A history of unexplained falls or minor injuries
- Bruising in well-protected areas, or clustered from repeated striking
- Finger marks
- Burns of unusual location or type
- Injuries found at different states of healing
- Injury shape similar to an object
- Injuries to head/face/scalp
- History of moving from doctor to doctor, or between social care agencies
- Reluctance to seek help
- Accounts which vary with time or are inconsistent with physical evidence
- Weight loss due to malnutrition; or rapid weight gain
- Ulcers, bed sores and being left in wet clothing

- Drowsiness due to too much medication; or lack of medication causing recurring crises/hospital admissions

Sexual

- Disclosure or partial disclosure (use of phrases such as 'It's a secret')
- Medical problems, e.g. genital or urinary infections, difficulty walking or sitting
- Disturbed behaviour e.g. depression, sudden withdrawal from activities, loss of previous skills, sleeplessness or nightmares, self-injury, showing fear or aggression to one particular person, inappropriately seductive behavior, loss of appetite or difficulty in keeping food down.
- Unusual circumstances, such as, for example, two service-users found in a toilet/bathroom area, one of them distressed

Signs of psychological or emotional vulnerability

- Isolation
- Unkempt, unwashed appearance; smell
- Over meticulousness
- Inappropriate dress
- Withdrawnness, agitation, anxiety; not wanting to be touched
- Change in appetite
- Insomnia or need for excessive sleep
- Tearfulness
- Unexplained paranoia; excessive fears
- Low self-esteem
- Confusion

Signs of neglect

- Poor physical condition
- Clothing in poor condition
- Inadequate diet
- Untreated injuries or medical problems
- Failure to be given prescribed medication
- Poor personal hygiene

Signs of financial or material vulnerability

- Unexplained or sudden inability to pay bills
- Unexplained or sudden withdrawal of money from accounts
- Disparity between assets and satisfactory living conditions
- Unusual level of interest by family members and other people in the vulnerable person's financial assets

Signs of discrimination

- Lack of respect shown to an individual
- Substandard service offered to an individual
- Exclusion from rights afforded to others, such as health, education,

criminal justice

Other signs of abuse

Controlling relationships

Inappropriate use of restraint

- Sensory deprivation e.g. spectacles or hearing aid
- Denial of visitors or phone calls
- Failure to ensure privacy or personal dignity
- Lack of personal clothing or possessions

People who may abuse

Abuse may happen anywhere and may be carried out by anyone across all walks of life, class, culture and status. This includes Dragon Bell Temple's resident prior, volunteers and wider sangha members. It is understood that Dragon Bell Temple will not be distracted from acting on suspicions or allegations, by loyalty to the person who has been accused, nor by any desire to protect or maintain the good name of The Dragon Bell Temple.

Abuse may also be perpetrated by those involved in partner organisations, care homes, home based carers, informal carers, family, friends or neighbours

Reporting abuse

- All allegations or suspicions are to be treated seriously. No abuse is acceptable.
- Some abuse may be a criminal offence and should be reported to the police immediately (see Appendix 1 Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Flow Chart)
- Dragon Bell Temple's Prior, Designated Safeguarding Officer and wider sangha members' primary responsibility is towards the vulnerable adult once a disclosure or allegation has been made. It is understood that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- Once a disclosure has been made Dragon Bell Temple has a duty to take immediate action (see Appendix 1 Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Flow Chart)

What to do if a vulnerable adult reports abuse to you:

- Stay calm
- Listen patiently
- Reassure the person they are doing the right thing by telling you
- Clarify issues of confidentiality early on. Make it clear that you will have to discuss their concerns with others
- Explain what you are going to do

Do not

- Appear shocked, horrified, disgusted or angry
- Press the individual for details
- Make comments or judgments other than to show concern
- Promise to keep secrets
- Confront the abuser or deal with the situation yourself in any other ways

What to do next:

- Contact the Designated Safeguarding Officer immediately (or the Prior if the allegation is against the Designated Safeguarding Officer)

- Write a factual account of what you have seen and heard, immediately
- The Designated Safeguarding Officer will then follow the procedures outlined in the Adult Safeguarding Flow Chart. You will receive feedback
- In conversation with the Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership the following will be taken into consideration when deciding how to proceed:
 - The wishes of the vulnerable adult and their right to self-determination
 - The mental capacity of the vulnerable adult
 - Known indicators of abuse
 - Definitions of abuse
 - Level of risk to the individual
 - The seriousness of the abuse
 - The effect of the abuse on the individual
 - Level of risk to others
 - The effect of the abuse on others
 - Whether a criminal offence has been committed
 - Whether other statutory obligations have been breached
 - The need for others to know
 - The ability of outside and partner agencies such as the police or social services to make a positive contribution to the situation

Where a vulnerable adult expresses a wish for concerns not to be pursued, this should be respected wherever possible. However, decisions about whether to respect their wishes must have regard to the level of risk to the individual and others, and the level of capacity to understand the decision in question. In some circumstances the vulnerable adult's wishes may need to be overridden in favour of considerations of safety. Therefore the consent of the vulnerable adult must be obtained except where:

- It is deemed they are at serious risk of harm
- They lack the mental capacity to make a decision, and a risk assessment indicates that referral would be in their best interests
- Others may be at risk
- A crime has been committed

Dragon Bell Temple

Prior's name

Willard Lee

Prior's signature

Willard Lee

Designated Safeguarding Officer's name

Ian Lucraft

[Signature]

Designated Safeguarding Officer's signature

Date *28/08/2021*

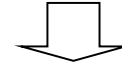
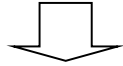
This document is to be read in conjunction with Dragon Bell Temple's Child protection policy and Child protection code of conduct.

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Appendix 1 - Dragon Bell Temple – Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding Policy

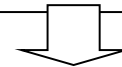
FLOW CHART FOR REPORTING INFORMATION FOLLOWING A DISCLOSURE OR ALLEGATION

Disclosure/allegation is received by member of the Sangha.
(Do not be tempted to investigate the matter yourself)



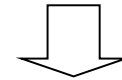
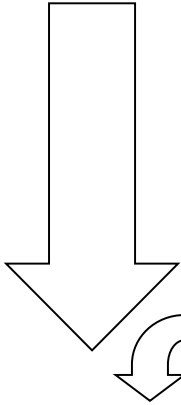
Sangha member records details disclosed and makes immediate contact with the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO). If the DSO is unavailable then contact the Prior. Do not discuss with anyone else

If the disclosure/allegation is against the Designated Safeguarding Officer (DSO) or the Prior, Sangha member records details disclosed and contacts either the DSO or the Prior, depending on who the

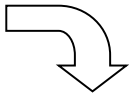


Refer to Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership:

- a) Information - <https://www.devonsafeguardingadultspartnership.org.uk/reporting-a-concern/>
- b) Reporting the concern –
- b) <https://www.devonsafeguardingadultspartnership.org.uk/report-your-concern-devon-local-authority-boundaries/>
- c) Contact the OBC:
<https://obcon.org/about-us/our-ethical-intentions-and-resolving-a-concern/contact-for-ethical-concern-united-kingdom/>

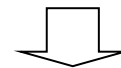
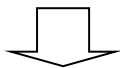


Is the vulnerable adult at immediate risk of harm? (*Immediate describes any situation where if the person were to remain in their current environment they would be in imminent danger of their life*) If yes and Sangha member is unable to contact DSO or Prior, they should go directly to the Police themselves

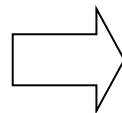


YES

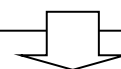
NO



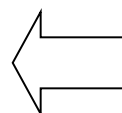
DSO reviews information and makes immediate referral to Police (999). It is not necessary to gain consent



DSO contacts Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership
<https://www.devonsafeguardingadultspartnership.org.uk/report-your-concern-devon-local-authority-boundaries/>



DSO contacts Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership to confirm actions taken and to discuss further action/s as necessary



Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership provides advice and written confirmation to DSO including any action/s and/or follow up required

Meeting of Dragon Bell Temple Trustees arranged to review and update relevant policies (observing confidential aspects and need to know requirements)