

## Cocaine Anonymous UK Area – Safeguarding Statement

The purpose of this statement is to provide a document of intent in relation to safeguarding. This is not a policy, which would be regulated by laws.

Both as members and a wider organisation, we recognise that all individuals have an equal right to protection from all forms of harm, neglect and abuse. Through applying the Twelve Steps and the Twelve Traditions, we grow in love, tolerance, and respect for each other. This spiritual growth diminishes the risk of abuse and harm to others and allows us to rise above prejudice, regardless of religion, ethnicity, economic status, age, gender, or sexual orientation.

However, if C.A. members believe they are being abused or know/suspect that another member or child is being abused, the following actions should be given serious consideration as appropriate:

- Report your concerns (this can be done anonymously) to one of the following;
  - Local Authority Adult's Social Care Team
  - Local Authority Children's Social Care Team
  - NSPCC
- if there is immediate risk of abuse or threat to life call 999

It is not the responsibility of a C.A. member to decide whether or not abuse has taken place. It is their responsibility to act, as suggested above, if there is cause for concern, in order that the appropriate action can be taken to protect the adult and/or child from further abuse and harm.

As individual C.A. members we all have a duty to be aware of our responsibility to others and follow legal requirements in safeguarding when participating in the service work for the fellowship. We may at times while undertaking service, be asked that a DBS check be undertaken. Neither the fellowship of Cocaine Anonymous, nor the Charity CAEW, carry out DBS checks for members. Where an organisation requests that a member holds a current DBS certificate to undertake service, it may be appropriate for the member to seek the support of the requesting organisation to obtain one.

A copy of this statement should be made available to all members and be included in the Area Service Manual.