



## THE ROYAL SUSSEX REGIMENTAL ASSOCIATION LIMITED

### SAFEGUARDING POLICY

#### **1 Introduction**

- 1.1 The Royal Sussex Regimental Association Limited (RSX RAL) is a caring organisation that works to a set of values which includes the belief that everyone deserves to feel safe and have their human rights protected. We are a veteran's association and most of our membership are senior citizens; some may be potentially vulnerable and could be a victim of abuse.
- 1.2 We do not have any members who would fall within the category of being a child or young person (i.e. a person under the age of 18 years). Nevertheless, our members may, in the course of association business, encounter Army Cadets and may have young grandchildren too. We consider that Directors, Trustees and Branch officers should have a general awareness of the various forms of child abuse.
- 1.3 Generally, outside of association meetings and organised functions, the Association has limited direct contact with potentially vulnerable veterans. Most of the support work is carried out by SSAFA on our behalf, but occasionally Directors, Trustees and Branch Officers may have direct contact with members who need support and could be vulnerable to abuse. It is important that everyone involved is aware of the vulnerabilities, the symptoms and the processes contained within this document.
- 1.4 All Directors, Trustees and Branch Officers encountering children and adults at risk have a responsibility to protect them and ensure they receive a safe effective service. The Association safeguarding policy and direction will assist members in identifying possible signs of abuse, to help them to respond appropriately and to inform them of the process for reporting any possible abuse.
- 1.5 Safeguarding concerns vary greatly in terms of their nature and seriousness, how they have been identified and over what duration they have arisen. If a member has concerns about a child or an adult, they should seek assistance. The Local Authorities in Sussex will have teams responsible for the safeguarding of adults and children. It is important that our Directors, Trustees and Branch Officers find out the local arrangements and contact details for their area.
- 1.6 It is important that our members know who to contact in the Association if they have a concern about a child or adult at risk. They should not feel that because of data protection, or GDPR, they cannot share their concerns with appropriate Directors, Branch Officers or Local Authority adult and children's teams – information sharing is essential for effective safeguarding of adults and children. The most important



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consideration is whether sharing information is likely to support the safeguarding and protection of a child or adult.

### **2 Safeguarding Code of Conduct**

- 2.1 We are committed to keeping people safe from harm, especially adults at risk and children. We commit to providing a robust process, support, and resources to enable those who come in to contact to be safe from harm and protect children and adults at risk.
- 2.2 We understand our members needs and are non-judgmental in our approach. We will promote an outcomes approach to safeguarding that works for children and adults resulting in the best experience possible. We will together proactively collect safeguarding data to inform our own practice, learning and manage safeguarding risks.
- 2.3 We are committed to safeguarding children and adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control in how they choose to live their lives. We will raise awareness so that Directors, Trustees and Branch Officers can play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect.
- 2.4 We will place the needs of adult at risks and children first. If a Director, Trustee or Branch Officer has reasonable cause to suspect an adult or child with whom they are in contact, is suffering or is at risk of abuse and neglect and has needs which leave them unable to protect themselves, then they must ensure enquiries are made to decide what action (if any) should be taken, and by whom (the “duty to enquire”)

### **3 Policy**

- 3.1 This policy applies to all Directors, Trustees and Branch Officers. The Association will not tolerate the abuse of adults in any of its forms and is committed to safeguarding adults with care and support needs, from harm.
- 3.2 In safeguarding adults, the Association is committed to the principles of the Sussex Safeguarding Adults Policy <https://sussexsafeguardingadults.procedures.org.uk/>

### **4 The Aim of The Policy**

- 4.1 The key objectives of this policy are for all Directors, Trustees and Branch Officers of the RSX RAL to:
  - 4.1.1 To have an overview of adult and child safeguarding.



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- 4.1.2 To be clear about their responsibility to safeguard adult
- 4.1.3 To ensure the necessary actions are taken where an adult or child with care and support needs is deemed to be at risk.

4.2 It is important that Directors, Trustees and Branch Officers understand how the Association intends to keep its members safe from harm, how it intends to protect them in their role and also the Association's reputation. It is very important that members in key roles fully understand what is being asked of them in terms of safeguarding. If there is any doubt, the ASL should be consulted at the earliest opportunity.

### **5 Purpose**

5.1 The purpose of this policy and direction is to set out how the Association requires every Director, Trustee and Branch Officer to act to protect children and adults from harm including keeping all Association members safe within their role and functions on behalf of the Association. This policy provides the principles that guide our approach to safeguarding children and adults.

### **6 What is Safeguarding and Why is it Important**

6.1 Safeguarding means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. The Association requires all Directors, Trustees and Branch Officers, to act to protect children and adults from harm. This includes a responsibility to keep our members and their families safe.

### **7 What Does Safeguarding Adults Mean**

7.1 Safeguarding means protecting the health, well-being and human rights of adults at risk, enabling them to live safely, free from abuse and neglect. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

7.2 The Mental Capacity Act and Care Act provides a clear legal framework for how organisations work in partnership with other public services to protect adults at risk, placing Adult Safeguarding on the same statutory footing as children.

7.3 As an Association, we must demonstrate the aims of adult Safeguarding:

- 7.3.1 To prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs.
- 7.3.2 To safeguard individuals in a way that supports them in making choices and having control in how they choose to live their lives.



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- 7.3.3 To promote an outcomes approach in Safeguarding that works for people resulting in the best experience possible.
  - 7.3.4 To raise awareness so that Director's, Trustees and Branch Officers play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect.
- 7.4 An adult may be unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation due to many reasons, including their mental or physical incapacity, sensory loss or physical or learning disabilities. This could be an adult who is usually able to protect themselves from harm but may be unable to do so because of an accident, disability, frailty, addiction or illness.

### **8 Key Principles of Adult Safeguarding**

- 8.1 An adult at risk of abuse or neglect is defined as someone who has needs for care and support, who is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and because of their care needs, is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or the neglect or the risk of it (The Care Act 2014).
- 8.2 In the safeguarding of adults, the Association is guided by the six key principles set out in The Care Act 2014. The Association aims to demonstrate and promote these six principles in our association business:
- 8.2.1 Empowerment. People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
  - 8.2.2 Prevention. It is better to take action before harm occurs.
  - 8.2.3 Proportionality – The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
  - 8.2.4 Protection. Support and representation for those in greatest need.
  - 8.2.5 Partnership. Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
  - 8.2.6 Accountability. Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

### **9 Safeguarding Children and Young People**

- 9.1 Child abuse is any action by another person – adult or child – that causes significant harm to a child. It can be physical, sexual, or emotional, but can just as often be about a lack of love, care and attention. Neglect, whatever form it takes, can be just as damaging to a child as physical abuse. There are six main types of child abuse: physical, emotional, sexual, neglect, child sexual exploitation (CSE) and radicalisation. The principle is that the protection of children from abuse overrides all other considerations (including confidentiality).

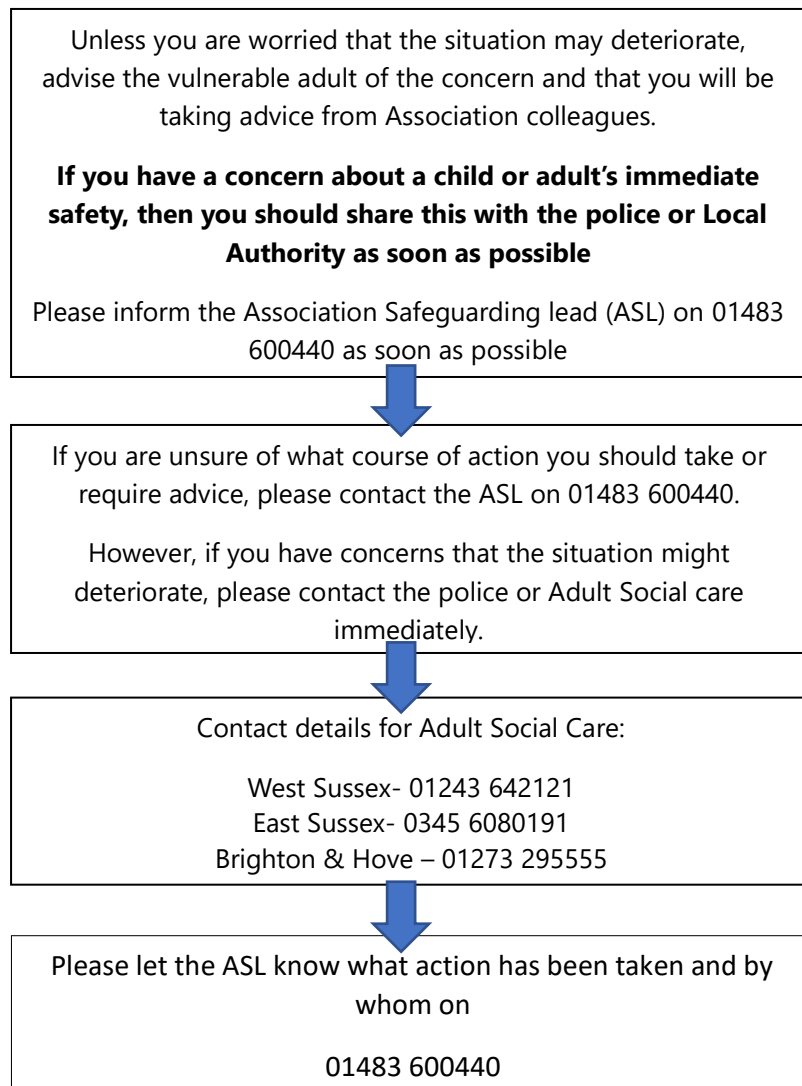


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### 10 Confidentiality

- 10.1 You must never guarantee confidentiality to anyone about a safeguarding concern (including parents/carers) or promise to keep a secret. Where there is a child protection or adult at risk of abuse concern, this must be reported. Fears about sharing information cannot be allowed to stand in the way of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children or adults at risk of abuse or neglect. If a Director, Trustee or Branch Officer has a concern about a child or adult's immediate safety, they should share this with the Local Authority or police in line with our procedures.

### 11 Reporting a Safeguarding Concern





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### **12 Status**

- 12.1 The status of this policy document, RSX DCP004-01 is APPROVED by the Board as of the 5 June 2023.

### **Appendix**

This policy has been drawn up based on UK law that seeks to protect children and adults. In this context, the following elements of statute and best practice are pertinent:

- a. The Children Act 1989.
- b. The Children Act 2004
- c. The Sexual Offences Act 2003
- d. Children and Young Persons Act 2008
- e. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2013, 2015, 2018
- f. Mental Capacity Act 2005
- g. The Care Act 2014