



St Helena Government

Planning and prevention procedures

Introduction

There is growing consensus about the importance of everyone with an interest in adult care services making efforts to promote the wellbeing and prevent abuse of vulnerable adults. Saint Helena Government (SHG) recognises the requirement to ensure that it protects its vulnerable people and as part of its 3 year strategic plan discusses '*multi-agency working and training with a focus on a preventative agenda*'. SHG strive to ensure there are measures in place to ensure service users/vulnerable adults, staff, other organisations, stakeholders and the wider community are aware of what abuse is and how to address it.

This scheme uses a longer term approach than some other aspects of our service. The reality is that St Helena has many vulnerable people living out in its community, living fulfilled lives. There are also many adults supported by devoted carers who have strived to give their loved ones the very best care and attention possible but who themselves need support. There are adults living in isolated parts of the island who struggle to access essential services such as shops or medical appointments. There are some isolated vulnerable adults and who would like some social support and stimulation, things many of us take for granted. As such, these procedures are for vulnerable adults and their carers, to help people remain as **independent and supported** as possible, to try to plan for the future but also to meet people's needs now.

Saint Helena is a self-governing British Overseas Territory and has its own unique culture and values, however the Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Constitution Order 2009 states the region is *wishing to continue and strengthen their relationship with the United Kingdom and to the promotion and protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms*.

The Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha Constitution Order 2009 (Part 2, s5) also states the following;

Fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual

"Whereas every person in Saint Helena is entitled to the fundamental rights and freedoms of the individual, that is to say, has the right, without distinction of any kind, such as sex, sexual orientation, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, age, disability, birth or other status, but subject to respect for the rights and freedoms of others and for the public interest, to each and all of the following—

(a) life, liberty, security of the person and the protection of the law;
(b) freedom of conscience, of expression and of assembly and association;
(c) protection for his or her private and family life, the privacy of his or her home and other property; and
(d) protection from deprivation of property save in the public interest and on payment of fair compensation, this Part shall afford protection to these rights and freedoms, and to related rights and freedoms, subject to the limitations contained in this Part, being limitations designed to ensure that the enjoyment of the protected rights and freedoms by any individual does not prejudice the rights and freedoms of others or the public interest.”

Working closely to the principles outlined above, **the Protection and Planning Procedures** are set out to support vulnerable adults to remain safe, to live the life they choose and to try and help keep these arrangements sustainable. This policy has been drawn up using local expertise and listening to members of the public and most importantly users of the service we provide and their families.

What is prevention?

While most people would agree that ‘prevention is better than cure’, where the protection of vulnerable adults concerns, identifying what works – and for whom and in what situations – is very difficult. St Helena has an ageing population and this would include carers who have dedicated their lives to caring for their loved ones and those with support needs living in isolated parts of St Helena.

People who use services are clear that effective prevention in safeguarding is not about overprotective paternalism or risk-averse practice. Instead, we should be working in the context of **person-centred support**, with individuals empowered to make choices and be supported to manage risks. This desire for people who use services to be empowered to prevent abuse is reflected in the *No secrets* (UK) consultation report:

One of the strongest messages from the engagement with non-professionals was that safeguarding must be built on empowerment – on listening very carefully to the voices of individuals who are at risk, and those who have been harmed. Without empowerment, without people’s voices, safeguarding did not work. (2009, p 13)

The Adult Social Care Team endorses that prevention in safeguarding needs to be broadly defined and include all social care user groups and service configurations. It includes multiagency working (including information sharing), community safety, community participation and public awareness, as well as awareness raising and skills development with vulnerable adults.

Prevention in action

The Adult Social Care Team identifies the following building blocks for prevention and early intervention:

- identifying those vulnerable people who may need some extra support

- people being informed of their rights to be **free from abuse** and supported to exercise these rights, including access to advocacy.
- Those identified as high need and receiving little government support should receive particular attention under this scheme.
- Ensuring we are seeing vulnerable adults and their carers who are eligible for the scheme at least **once per month**.
- Support to access essential services where necessary
- a well trained workforce operating in a culture of **zero tolerance of abuse**
- sound framework for confidentiality and information sharing across agencies
- **needs and risk assessments (where appropriate)** to inform people's choices
- Structured and dependable support for carers
- a range of options of support to keep 'vulnerable adults' safe from abuse tailored to people's individual needs
- services that prioritise both safety, independence, empowerment and choice
- raising public awareness of the issues.
- policies and procedures
- regulation and legislation
- Working with other agencies and community organisations

Getting in touch...

The Adult Social Care Team values your feedback either in person, by telephone or in writing. Many aspects of the functioning of the team will be overseen by the Saint Helena Safeguarding Adults Board which convenes at set times to review progress and provide support and guidance.

If you have any questions or if you wish to comment on this plan or any aspect of our service, then please email Patra Duncan, Social Care Officer for Prevention and Planning on socialcareofficer2@helanta.co.sh or ring on 23172.



Safeguarding Directorate

Prevention and planning – eligibility criteria

To be eligible for support under these procedures a person must be a 'vulnerable adult' and meet **two** of the following criteria;

Risk: assessed as being at significant risk of crisis situation/harm developing/occurring if additional support not in place, and/or

Informal support: receiving substantial support from an **informal** carer in order to ensure safety, and/or

Social Isolation: live in an isolated part of St Helena and not have consistent access to transport