



## **Safeguarding Adults Policy Statement**

This policy will enable Game-Nation to demonstrate its commitment to keeping safe the vulnerable adults with whom it works alongside. Game Nation acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.

It is important to have the policy and procedures in place so that staff, volunteers, service users and carers, and management committee can work to prevent abuse and know what to do in the event of abuse.

The Policy Statement and Procedures have been drawn up in order to enable Game Nation to:

- promote good practice and work in a way that can prevent harm, abuse and coercion occurring.
- to ensure that any allegations of abuse or suspicions are dealt with appropriately and the person experiencing abuse is supported.
- and to stop that abuse occurring.

The Policy and Procedures relate to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults.

Vulnerable adults are defined as:

- People aged 18 or over
- Who are receiving or may need community care services because of learning, physical or mental disability, age, or illness
- Who are or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

The policy applies to all staff, including senior managers, management committee members, trustees, paid staff, agency staff, and anyone working on behalf of Game Nation.

It is acknowledged that significant numbers of vulnerable children and adults are abused, and it is important that Game Nation has a Safeguarding Adults Policy, a set of procedures to follow and puts in place preventative measures to try and reduce those numbers.

In order to implement the policy, the Game Nation will work:

- To promote the freedom and dignity of the person who has or is experiencing abuse
- To promote the rights of all people to live free from abuse and coercion
- To ensure the safety and well being of people who do not have the capacity to decide how they want to respond to abuse that they are experiencing
- To manage services in a way which promotes safety and prevents abuse
- Recruit staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- Provide effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training

## **GAME NATION**

- Will ensure that all management committee members, staff are familiar with this policy and procedures
- Will work with other agencies within the framework of the National Safeguarding Adults Board Policy and Procedures, issued under The Care Act (Department of Health, 2014)
- Will act within its confidentiality policy and will usually gain permission from service users before sharing information about them with another agency
- Will pass information to Adult and Culture Services when more than one person is at risk. For example: if the concern relates to a worker, volunteer or organisation who provides a service to vulnerable adults or children
- Will inform service users that where a person is in danger, or a crime has been committed then a decision may be taken to pass information to another agency without the service user's consent
- Will make a referral to the Adult Social Care Direct team as appropriate
- Will endeavor to keep up to date with national developments relating to preventing abuse and welfare of adults
- Will ensure that the designated named department understands his/her responsibility to refer incidents of adult abuse to the relevant statutory agencies (Police/Adult and Culture Services Directorate)

The Designated department for Safeguarding Adults in Game Nation is Human Resources working closely with the Operation sector.

They should be contacted for support and advice on implementing this policy and procedures.

This policy should be read in conjunction with other related Game Nation safety policies including the employee welfare scheme.

**These SHOULD BE HELD IN A TRAINING PORTAL**

## Introduction

Procedures have been designed to ensure the welfare and protection of any adult who accesses services provided by Game Nation. The procedures recognize that abuse can be a difficult subject for workers to deal with. Game Nation is committed to the belief that the protection of vulnerable adults from harm and abuse is everybody's responsibility and the aim of these procedures is to ensure that all managers, trustees of the organisation, management committee members, staff and volunteers act appropriately in response to any concern around adult abuse.

### **1. Preventing abuse**

Game Nation is committed to putting in place safeguards and measures to reduce the likelihood of abuse taking place within the services it offers and that all those involved within Game Nation will be treated with respect.

Therefore, this policy needs to be read in conjunction with the following policies:

- Equal Rights and Diversity
- Complaints
- Whistle Blowing
- Confidentiality
- Disciplinary and Grievance
- Data Protection
- Recruitment and Selection
- Any other policies which are relevant that the organisation has in place

Game Nation is committed to safer recruitment policies and practices for paid staff. This may include DBS disclosures for staff and volunteers, ensuring references are taken up and adequate training on Safeguarding Adults is provided for staff.

The organisation will work within the current legal framework for reporting staff that are abusers.

Information will be available about abuse and the complaints policy and Safeguarding Adults policy statement will be available to service users.

### **2. Recognising the signs and symptoms of abuse, grooming and exploitation**

Game Nation is committed to ensuring that all staff, the management committee undertake training to gain a basic awareness of signs and symptoms of abuse, grooming and exploitation. Game Nation will ensure that the Designated Named Person and other members of staff have access to training around Safeguarding Adults.

"Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons" (The Care Act, 2014)

**Abuse includes:**

- Physical abuse: including hitting, slapping, punching, burning, misuse of medication, inappropriate restraint
- Sexual abuse: including rape, indecent assault, inappropriate touching, exposure to pornographic material
- Psychological or emotional abuse: including belittling, name calling, threats of harm, intimidation, isolation
- Financial or material abuse: including stealing, selling assets, fraud, misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits
- Neglect and acts of omission: including withholding the necessities of life such as medication, food or warmth, ignoring medical or physical care needs
- Discriminatory abuse: including racist, sexist, that based on a person's disability and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment
- Institutional or organisational: including regimented routines and cultures, unsafe practices, lack of person-centred care or treatment

Abuse may be carried out deliberately or unknowingly. Abuse may be a single act or repeated acts.

People who behave abusively come from all backgrounds and walks of life. They may be doctors, nurses, social workers, advocates, staff members, volunteers or others in a position of trust. They may also be relatives, friends, neighbours or people who use the same services as the person experiencing abuse.

## **Grooming**

Grooming happens both online and in person. Groomers will hide their true intentions and may spend a long time gaining trust. Groomers may try to gain the trust of a whole family to allow them to be left alone with the vulnerable and if they work with the vulnerable, they may use similar tactics with their colleagues.

Below are some of the signs of grooming, many of these are common behaviours however increased instances of changes in behaviour may indicate the child is being groomed

- Sudden changes in their appearance and wearing more revealing clothes
- Becoming involved in drugs or alcohol, particularly if you suspect they are being supplied by older or influential men or women
- Becoming emotionally volatile (mood swings are common in all younger people, but more severe changes could indicate that something is wrong)
- Using sexual language that you would not expect them to know
- Appearing controlled by their phone
- Possessing items that they may not be able to afford themselves

### **3. Designated Named Department for safeguarding adults**

Game Nation has an appointed a department who is responsible for dealing with any Safeguarding Adults concerns. The Designated department for Safeguarding Adults within Game Nation is Human Resources

Human Resource Department  
City Gaming  
Game Nation  
91 Wimpole Street,  
London  
W1G 0EF  
+44 203 908 5927

The roles and responsibilities of the named department are:

- To ensure that all staff are aware of what they should do and who they should go to if they have concerns that a vulnerable adult may be experiencing or has experienced abuse, grooming or neglect.
- To ensure that concerns are acted on, clearly recorded and referred to an Adult Social Care Direct team
- To follow up any referrals and ensure the issues have been addressed.
- Consider any recommendations from the Safeguarding Adults process
- To reinforce the utmost need for confidentiality and to ensure that staff are adhering to good practice with regard to confidentiality and security. This is because it is around the time that a person starts to challenge abuse that the risks of increasing intensity of abuse are greatest.
- To ensure that staff working directly with service users who have experienced abuse, or who are experiencing abuse, are well supported and receive appropriate supervision.
- If appropriate staff will be given support and afforded protection if necessary, under the Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998: they will be dealt with in a fair and equitable manner and they will be kept informed of any action that has been taken and it's outcome

### **4. Responding to people who have experienced or are experiencing abuse**

Game Nation recognises that it has a duty to act on reports, or suspicions of abuse, neglect. It also acknowledges that taking action in cases of adult abuse is never easy.

How to respond if you receive an allegation:

- Reassure the person concerned
- Listen to what they are saying
- Record what you have been told/witnessed as soon as possible
- Remain calm and do not show shock or disbelief
- Tell them that the information will be treated seriously

- Don't start to investigate or ask detailed or probing questions
- Don't promise to keep it a secret

If you witness abuse or abuse has just taken place the priorities will be:

- To call an ambulance if required
- To call the police if a crime has been committed
- To preserve evidence
- To keep yourself, staff and service users safe
- To inform the Designated Named Department in your organisation
- To record what happened in the safeguarding incident log (IHL hub)

All situations of abuse, alleged abuse will be discussed with the Designated Named Department. If a member of the management committee, staff member feels unable to raise this concern with the Designated Named Department then concerns can be raised directly with Adult Social Care Direct. The alleged victim will be told that this will happen. This stage is called the alert.

If it is appropriate and there is consent from the individual, or there is a good reason to override consent, such as risk to others, a referral (alert) will be made to Adult Social Care Direct team

If the individual experiencing abuse does not have capacity to consent a referral will be made without that person's consent, in their best interests.

The Designated Named Department may take advice at the above stage from Adult Social Care Direct and/or the Safeguarding Adults Unit and/or other advice giving organisations such as Police.

### **Adult Social Care Direct**

Contact the local authority where the incident happened

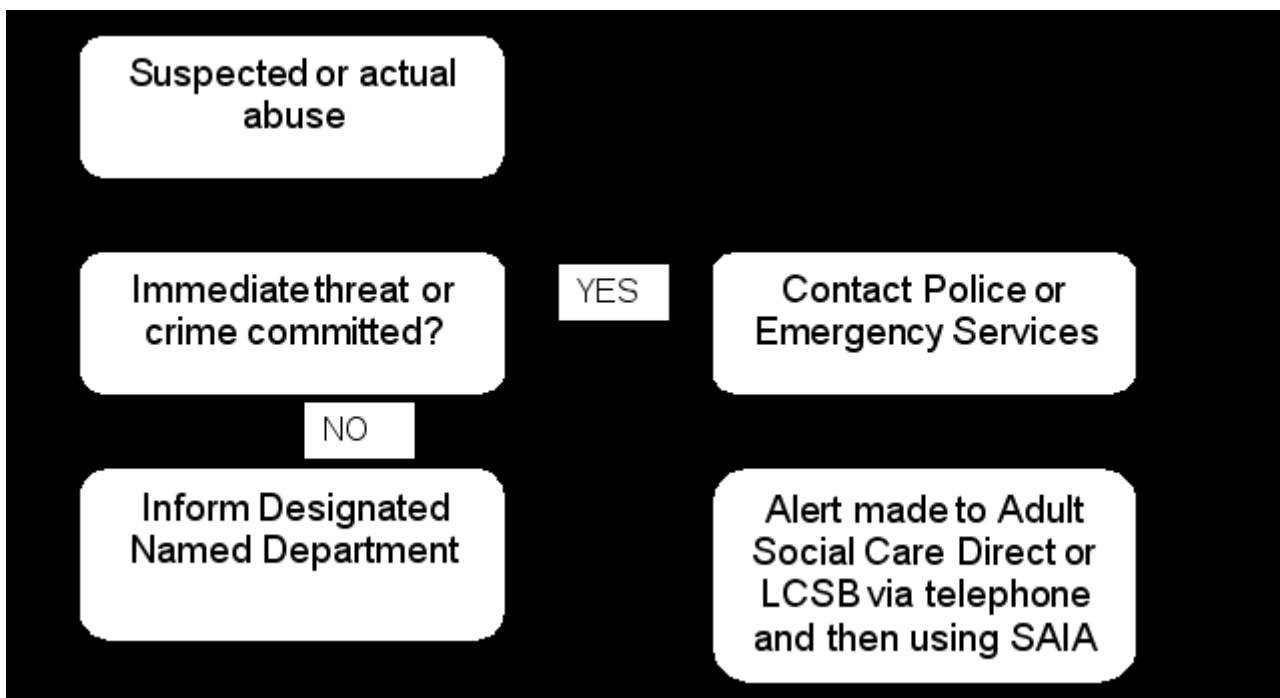
### **Police**

Phone: 101

Emergency: 999

You should ask to make a safeguarding adults alert.

The telephone call should be followed up in writing to the Adult Social Care Direct team outlining concerns using a Safeguarding Adults Incident Alert form (SAIA)



Adult and cultural services will then decide if the safeguarding process should be instigated or if other support/services are appropriate. Feedback will be given to the person who raised the safeguarding adults alert.

The Designated Named Department will have an overview of this process so they can explain it to the person concerned and offer all relevant support to the person and process. This could be practical support e.g. providing a venue, or information and reports and emotional support.

Information should be provided to the individual. This could be about other sources of help or information that could enable them to decide what to do about their experience, enable them to recover from their experience and enable them to seek justice.

## **5. Managing allegation made against member of staff**

Game Nation will ensure that any allegations made against members or member of staff will be dealt with swiftly.

Where a member of staff is thought to have committed a criminal offence the police will be informed. If a crime has been witnessed the police should be contacted immediately.

The safety of the individual(s) concerned is paramount. A risk assessment must be undertaken immediately to assess the level of risk to all service users posed by the alleged perpetrator. This will include whether it is safe for them to continue in their role or any other role within the service whilst the investigation is undertaken.

The Designated Named Department will liaise with Adult Social Care Direct to discuss the best course of action and to ensure that the Game Nation disciplinary procedures are coordinated with any other enquiries taking place as part of the ongoing management of the allegation.

Game Nation has a whistle blowing policy and staff are aware of this policy. Staff will be supported to use this policy.

## **6. Recording and managing confidential information**

Game Nation is committed to maintaining confidentiality wherever possible and information around Safeguarding adults' issues should be shared only with those who need to know. For further information, please see Game Nation confidentiality policy.

All allegations/concerns should be recorded on the IHL Hub incident alert form. The information should be factual and not based on opinions, record what the person tells you, what you have seen and witnesses if appropriate.

The information that is recorded will be kept secure and will comply with data protection.

This information will be secured in a locked filing cabinet/ or computer system. Access to this information will be restricted to the Designated Named Department

## **7. Disseminating/Reviewing policy and procedures**

This Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedure will be clearly communicated to staff, service users. The Designated Named Department will be responsible for ensuring that this is done.

The Safeguarding adults Policy and Procedures will be reviewed annually by Game Nation. The Designated Named Department for Safeguarding adults will be involved in this process and can recommend any changes. The Designated Named Department will also ensure that any changes are clearly communicated to staff.



## Appendix 1

### Safeguarding Adults Incident Alert Form

Reference: SAIA

This form is to be used to notify Adult Social Care Direct Team of any suspected or actual instances of abuse.

Person completing the form:

Organisation Name:

Phone contact details:

Date of Notification to Adult Social Care Direct:

#### Details of incident/suspected or actual abuse

To be completed by the manager or lead officer within the organisation responsible for safeguarding adults

Date of alleged incident/harm: Area where incident/harm took place:

Time of alleged incident/harm: Who reported the alert:

Date:

#### Who was involved:

Details of Alleged Victim  
Name:

Name and address of GP:

Address:

Ethnic Origin:

Date of Birth:

Nature of alleged victims' vulnerability:

Phone :

Any other details (e.g. communication needs):

Details of Alleged Perpetrator  
Name :

Ethnic Origin:

Address:

Relationship to victim:

Date of Birth:

Are they a vulnerable adult? Yes/No

Phone Contact:

Alleged perpetrators vulnerability (if applicable):

**If the alleged perpetrator is a staff member please provide staff details**  
 (E.g. job role, employer, address of place of work)

**Any other details:**

**Have you made the victim aware that details of the incident are being recorded and will be investigated?**

**Yes/No**

**If not, why not?**

**Type of Abuse** (Please tick one or more)

|  |  |                            |  |
|--|--|----------------------------|--|
| ✓  |  |                            |  |
| <b>Sexual</b>  |  | <b>Physical</b>            |  |
| <b>Emotional</b>                                     |  | <b>Neglect or omission</b> |  |
| <b>Psychological</b>                                 |  | <b>Financial/Material</b>  |  |
| <b>Discriminatory Abuse</b>                          |  | <b>Institutional</b>       |  |
| <b>Other i.e. suspicious death of a service user</b> |  |                            |  |

**Description of alleged incident / alleged harm, detailing all people involved including witnesses**

On this page please give a detailed description of the incident (please include times) and any other comments you feel are relevant. If necessary, attach further pages.

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>What action did you take immediately after the incident/allegation of harm (E.g. administered first aid, asked perpetrator to leave, took victim to secure area)</b> |   |
| <b>Were the Police called: Yes / No</b>   | <b>Were any other emergency services called: If yes, which service(s)? Yes / No</b>                 |
| <b>Names and badge numbers of Police:</b>   | <b>Outcome:</b> (Response time, taken to hospital etc)  |
| <b>Are there any other Agencies involved? Yes/No</b>  | <b>Please provide details of agencies:</b>  |
| <b>Are there any capacity issues? Yes/ No</b>   | <b>Please provide details:</b>  |
| <b>Has the victim made any previous referrals/alerts? Yes/No</b>  | <b>Please provide details (e.g. dates, type of abuse):</b>  |
| <b>Is the victim in immediate danger of further abuse? Yes/No</b>   | <b>Have any immediate actions been identified to reduce the potential for further abuse? Yes/No</b> |
| <b>Has an initial assessment been made to determine further potential risk to the victim? Yes/No</b>  | <b>What actions have been taken to reduce the potential for further abuse?</b>                      |
| <b>Are there any risks to others? Yes/No (Vulnerable adults, c)</b>   | <b>Please provide details (include who this information has been shared with</b>                    |
| <b>Signed:</b>  | <b>Date:</b><br><br><b>Time:</b>  |
| <b>This form must be sent to the Adult Social Care Direct team within 24 hours of the suspected or actual abuse, or as soon as possible after being made aware.</b>     |   |

**This form can be emailed to the HR department**

This is a confidential document and should be stored securely according to your own organisation's procedures. It is your responsibility to ensure that this is done.

**Decision by Safeguarding Manager (Adult and Culture Services Directorate Only)  
Safeguarding Alert Yes / No**

**If No – please give reasons for decision**