

Lerryn Area Minibus Association

Safeguarding Policy

Policy Document Purpose:

This document sets out policy and procedures supporting safeguarding for Lerryn Area Minibus Association (LAMA)

The objective of this document:

To provide a framework for adult passengers to access LAMA's services safely.

Purpose

Everyone has the right to be protected against risk to their safety, health and well-being and everyone has the responsibility to safeguard others against such risks. The purpose of this policy is to provide a framework for a safe passenger experience when travelling with LAMA.

Statutory Guidance and Definition:

The Safeguarding of vulnerable adults is detailed in The Care Act (2014). An adult who may have safeguarding needs is defined in The Care Act (2014) as an adult who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect and;
- as result of those care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Interpretation:

LAMA considers the above and a wider range of social welfare and access needs of their passengers:

- taking a general interest in passenger's health and wellbeing,
- offering passengers at registration the opportunity to provide ICE information,
- being alert to spot when a passenger is unwell/confused and respond,
- being alert to passengers' mental and cognitive wellbeing and responding appropriately,
- being alert to evidence of social issues, e.g. isolation,
- being aware of passenger's needs when negotiating the steps onto and off the bus and how to offer a steadying arm/hand in an appropriate manner.
- Sensitively helping passengers' with luggage so that they are free to get onto and off the bus independently.
- Further guidance on the use or interpretation of this policy may be obtained from the LAMA committee.

Safeguarding of Children:

Children (under the age of 18) registered as passengers are required to travel with an adult who is responsible for them whilst traveling on the bus.

Registered organisations using the minibuss to transport children are responsible for the supervision of the children travelling. In this situation the driver's task is to drive, not supervise the children

travelling apart from ensuring that they are wearing their seat belts. The driver is responsible for ensuring people under 14 years of age wear seat belts.

Principles into practice:

All volunteers will be made aware of key safeguarding principles/practice through appropriate training materials: the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS), LAMA's Risk Assessment, Driver Guidance Pack (available on Lerryn.net), DBS compliance and updates from the committee as and when necessary.

All expressions of concern for welfare, and suspicions and allegations of abuse or neglect will be taken seriously. They will be responded to as quickly as possible in the circumstances by a committee member with due regard to privacy and the dignity of those concerned.

A written record of the concern and action taken will be made.

Whistleblowing

All concerns raised about poor or unsafe practice and potential failures in relation to LAMA's general duty of care to their registered passengers will be taken seriously and acted upon by the committee.

Confidentiality

The Data Protection Act (2018) and UK General Data Protection Regulations (UK GDPR) do not prevent, or limit, the sharing of information for the purposes of keeping adults at risk of harm, abuse or neglect safe.

Volunteers should never promise that they will not tell anyone about an allegation or disclosure, as this may not be in the best interests of the adult at risk of harm or abuse.

Suspensions, allegations and investigations will be handled confidentially and shared only with those who need to know in accordance with UK GDPR and Data Protection Act (2018), referring as necessary to government advice and guidance available at:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safeguarding-practitioners-information-sharing-advice>