



Palpung Changchub Dargyeling

Tibetan Buddhist Meditation Centre

&

Palpung Maitri House

House of Friendship

Community Venue

Updated 13.4.2022

Safeguarding Policy - Adults

Safeguarding Statement

Palpung Wales is a centre for spiritual, and personal wellbeing and growth, through meditation classes and teachings at the Meditation Centre and a number of community focussed activities based at Maitri House.

This statement specifically relates to those who are vulnerable adults but requires all people who visit or use either of the centre's premises, to be aware of the needs of those who are more vulnerable and to act with care and positive intent.

See also the Safeguarding statement about children and young people.

At times, adults seeking spiritual or personal wellbeing may be at a more vulnerable point in their lives (sometimes due to age, illness, disability, isolation,

or other social issues). Palpung Wales will always endeavour to provide services and activities which minimise risk and are as safe as we can make them.

We aim to protect our service users from harm or maltreatment, prevent the impairment of health or development, ensure the provision of a safe environment and activities, and promote the life chances of families and their children. If things go wrong, we aim to learn from that.

We work within the current legal framework of safeguarding vulnerable adults, in Wales.

We will work in partnership with other local/national agencies in Adult safeguarding, by having appropriate procedures for reporting and making onward referrals, as and when required.

Where volunteers are involved within the centre, whether as part of activities provided for the public, or in support roles for running the centre, these volunteers will be appropriately recruited, trained and supported, with clear guidance for their responsibilities, and what to do should a vulnerable adult appear to be at risk of harm.

Safeguarding is everyone's business, and responsibility for the overview of safeguarding (adults and children), rests with the day-to-day manager, and the Trustees.

Harm is caused by accidents, deliberate abuse (physical, sexual, emotional, financial), neglect (deliberate or not) or factors such as bullying, prejudicial attitudes etc.

All incidents of harm to anyone involved in our service will require an appropriate response to reduce risks and improve our service, including onward referral to other agencies.

We support and encourage all those using the premises, including those attending classes, volunteers and staff to speak up and contact the day to day onsite manager/volunteer, where there is

- a *personal experience* felt by the individual to be harmful to them, or
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- a *concern* (a worry, issue or doubt about practice or treatment of a service user or colleague, or their circumstances), *or*
- a *disclosure* (information about a person at risk of or suffering from significant harm) *or*
- an *allegation* (the possibility that a volunteer or staff member could cause harm to a person in their care)

Any reports relating to safeguarding issues will be kept securely and confidentially according to our data protection policy and confidentiality statement, until or unless it is necessary to share this material with other agencies who have responsibilities for safeguarding. Information will be shared on a “need-to-know” basis only.

Meditation Centre

Most activities within the meditation centre are attended by adults or young adults, and may include meditation classes and teachings, personal retreat, and volunteering opportunities eg working in the garden. (See also the policy on Volunteering, and Visitor Policy).

Personal retreats can be emotionally and mentally challenging, and therefore can create a situation of greater vulnerability, to both the words and actions of others, and to an individual's sense of self/self-esteem etc.

This makes it important for other retreatants to show care and respect and to be aware of the needs of others as far as possible. See also the “Code of Ethics/5 Precepts” which is applicable to both venues.

Maitri House

At Maitri House, other groups or organisations may provide activities and services which are open to all ages, across the board, with a wider community focus.

We expect that such organisations will both have and carry out, appropriate Adult safeguarding policies and procedures. Before agreeing such organisations' usage of Maitri House we will check that this is in place.
