



ESAM Safeguarding Statement

Purpose

The purpose of this statement is to protect people, particularly vulnerable adults, or young people, from any harm that may be caused due to their contact with ESAM committee members and associated personnel (as defined below):

A young person is, as defined by The Children Act 1989:

‘a person under the age of 18 years’

A vulnerable adult is:

‘a person who needs community care services by reasons of mental health or other disability, age or illness’ and ‘is or may be unable to take care of him/herself against significant harm or exploitation’.

ESAM is committed to protecting the safety and wellbeing of young people and vulnerable adults and this statement outlines the commitments made by ESAM and informs members of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding.

This policy does not cover:

- Sexual harassment in the workplace – this is dealt with under ESAM’s Anti Bullying and Harassment Policy
- Safeguarding concerns in the wider community not perpetrated by ESAM or its members

What is Safeguarding?

In the UK, safeguarding means protecting individual’s health, wellbeing and human rights, and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

Scope

All members of ESAM.

Associated personnel whilst engaged with work or visits related to ESAM, including but not limited to the following: consultants; volunteers; contractors; trainers and programme visitors including journalists, celebrities and politicians.

Context

ESAM believes that everyone we encounter, regardless of age, gender identity, disability, sexual orientation or ethnic origin has the right to be protected from all forms of harm, abuse, neglect and exploitation. ESAM will not tolerate abuse and exploitation by members.

Best Practice

Always:



- Work in an open environment, avoid private or unobserved situations and encourage open communication with 'no secrets'
- Treat all vulnerable adults and young people equally, with dignity and respect
- Put the welfare of vulnerable adults and young people first
- Build relationships based on mutual trust and empowering vulnerable adults and young people to share in the decision-making process
- Be an excellent role model including not smoking or drinking in the company of vulnerable adults and young people
- Request written carer consent before you transport vulnerable adults and young people in your car or on your motorcycle
- Avoid private or unprofessional communication with vulnerable adults or young people by phone, text, letter, social media or email and do not grant vulnerable adults or young people access to your personal social media profiles

Never:

- Engage in rough, physical or sexually provocative games
- Allow or engage in any form of inappropriate touching
- Make sexually suggestive comments to a vulnerable adult or young person, even in fun
- Allow allegations made by a vulnerable adult or young person to go unrecorded or acted upon
- Take a vulnerable adult or young person to your home where they will be alone with you

Reporting

ESAM will ensure that safe, appropriate, accessible means of reporting safeguarding concerns are made available to employees and associated personnel.

Anyone reporting concerns or complaints will be protected by ESAM's Complaints Policy.

ESAM will also accept complaints from external sources such as members of the public, partners and official bodies.

How to report a Safeguarding Concern

Members who have a complaint or concern relating to safeguarding should report it immediately to a member of the ESAM Committee. If the member does not feel comfortable reporting to a member of the Committee (for example if they feel that the report will not be taken seriously, or if that person is implicated in the concern) they may report to any other appropriate person such as the Chairman.

Responding to a Concern

If you are made aware of a concern, you should:

- Stay calm
- Contact emergency services if there is a need for any medical attention or protection – ensure they are aware this is a safeguarding issue



- Reassure the accuser they are not to blame, and they were right to tell you
- Listen to them and show that you are taking what is being said seriously
- Keep questions to a minimum, although you must have a clear and accurate understanding of what has been said. The law is strict, and an abuse case can be dismissed if it appears a vulnerable adult or young person has been led or words and/or ideas have been suggested
- Record what has happened
- Report what has happened as soon as possible

If you suspect that a vulnerable adult or young person may be the subject of abuse, it is not your responsibility to decide whether abuse has occurred/is occurring, but it is your duty to report your concern.

ESAM Response

ESAM will follow up safeguarding reports and concerns according to procedure, and legal and statutory obligations.

ESAM will apply appropriate disciplinary measures to any member found in breach of the statement.

ESAM will offer support to victims of harm caused by member, regardless of whether a formal internal response is carried out (such as an internal investigation).

Confidentiality

It is essential that confidentiality is maintained at all stages of the process when dealing with safeguarding concerns. Information relating to the concern and subsequent case management should be shared on a need to know basis only and should always be kept secure.

Date: January 2021