

St Albans Mencap

Charity number: 210073

stalbansmencap.org.uk

Appendix: Safeguarding Adults at Risk

This appendix to St Albans Mencap’s safeguarding policy ensures adults at risk aged 18 and over are protected when accessing mixed-age services with children and young people. It aligns safeguarding practices across age groups and complies with relevant legal frameworks..

Document control:

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Summary of changes:

Version:	Changes:
1.0	

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1. Purpose

This appendix supplements the core safeguarding and child protection policies of St Albans Mencap to ensure that adults aged 18 and over—particularly those with disabilities—are safeguarded when accessing services alongside children and young people. It reflects the charity’s commitment to inclusive, safe, and legally compliant practice across all age groups.

2. Legal and Regulatory Framework

This appendix is informed by:

- The Care Act 2014 (England) – which defines safeguarding duties for adults with care and support needs.
- The Children Act 1989 and 2004 – which underpin child protection principles.
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005 – which guides decision-making for individuals who may lack capacity.
- NSPCC guidance on safeguarding children and young people with SEND [\[1\]](#).
- Office of the Public Guardian’s safeguarding policy for vulnerable adults [\[2\]](#).

3. Scope

This appendix applies to:

- All staff, volunteers, trustees, and contractors.
- All service users aged 18 and over who access services alongside children and young people.
- All mixed-age activities, including social groups, and community events.

4. Principles

- **Equal Protection:** Adults at risk are entitled to the same level of protection from abuse, neglect, and exploitation as children.
- **Dignity and Respect:** All individuals will be treated with dignity, and their rights upheld, including the right to make choices and be involved in decisions about their care.
- **Integrated Safeguarding:** Safeguarding procedures will be harmonised across age groups to ensure consistency and clarity.

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5. Risk Assessment and Planning

- Risk assessments must explicitly consider the dynamics of mixed-age groups, including potential power imbalances and communication barriers.
- Refer to the [St Albans Mencap Risk Assessment for Staff Apr 2025 V1](#) for guidance on identifying and mitigating safeguarding risks [3].

6. Staff Training and Conduct

- All staff must complete safeguarding training that includes modules on both child protection and adult safeguarding (see [SAM Staff Handbook Apr 2025 V2](#) and [Staff Code of Conduct Apr 2025 V1](#)) [4] [5].
- Staff must adhere to professional boundaries and be alert to signs of abuse or neglect in both children and adults.

7. Personal and Intimate Care

- Care provided to adults must follow the same dignity and safety standards as outlined in the [Personal and Intimate Care Policy for Charity Staff Working with Children and Young People with Disabilities Apr 2025 V1](#) [6].
- Consent must be obtained in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

8. Reporting and Escalation

- Concerns about adults at risk must be reported to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) using the same procedures as for children.
- The DSL will determine whether to refer to adult social care or other statutory bodies.

9. Governance and Oversight

- The Operations and Safeguarding Committee (see [\[2.1 Operations and Safeguarding TOR June 2025 v1\]](#)) is responsible for reviewing safeguarding practices across all age groups [7].
- The [Trustee Safeguarding Report 21042025 AMO](#) outlines recent NSPCC audit findings and action plans to strengthen safeguarding culture [8].

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References

- [1] [Safeguarding children with special educational needs and disabilities ...](#)
- [2] [Safeguarding policy: protecting vulnerable adults - GOV.UK](#)
- [3] [St Albans Mencap Risk Assessment for Staff Apr 2025 V1](#)
- [4] [SAM Staff Handbook Apr 2025 V2](#)
- [5] [Staff Code of Conduct Apr 2025 V1](#)
- [6] [Personal and Intimate Care Policy for Charity Staff Working with Children and Young People with Disabilities Apr 2025 V1](#)
- [7] [2.1 Operations and Safeguarding TOR June 2025 v1](#)
- [8] [Trustee Safeguarding Report 21042025 AMO](#)