

Safeguarding Policy – Guidance for Facilitators

AVPB aims to make its workshops as inclusive and welcoming as possible. However, we recognise that neglect and physical, sexual and emotional abuse exist and affect those in both receiving and perpetrator roles. Therefore AVPB must be vigilant in its endeavours to provide a safe environment for all.

Policy Statement

AVP Britain is fully committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of all its participants, staff and volunteers as it carries out its work.

AVP Britain particularly recognises its responsibility to take all reasonable steps to promote safe practice and to protect vulnerable people from harm, abuse, exploitation or re-traumatisation.

AVP Britain acknowledges its duty to respond to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse.

Facilitator teams are responsible for ensuring the requirements of our safeguarding arrangements are met during workshops. **Safeguarding should be a standing item during teambuilding and end-of-workshop debriefing, and all safeguarding issues should be reported in the facilitators' workshop report and communicated directly to the Safeguarding Officer if an incident has occurred.**

PREPARING AND SHARING RISK ASSESSMENTS

The Regional Coordinator should complete a written risk assessment before any AVPB activity with participants, including each workshop. The risk assessment should identify risks, agree the actions required to minimise them, and designate the person(s) responsible for carrying them out. The Regional Coordinator should provide each workshop facilitator team with contact details of their local Safeguarding Adults Board, so they can contact them for advice in an emergency if the AVPB Safeguarding Officer is not available.

The risk assessment must be shared with the facilitator team before the workshop or other AVP activity begins.

PRE-WORKSHOP BRIEFING

It is in our literature that perpetrators and victims may be participants on the same workshop. Any briefing should make clear that expectations should be realistic and that workshops are not a one-off cure for someone with problems with violence.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND ITS LIMITS

Except where specified below, any disclosure – by any of AVP's participants, volunteers or staff – made to an AVPB volunteer or staff member should be kept confidential and not disclosed more widely. There are two exceptions to this:

1. Where there is a legitimate need to share a disclosure more widely within AVPB, this may be done, **but the presumption should be towards not doing so unless necessary.**
2. Where a disclosure indicates that a person or persons may be at risk of serious harm, **there may be a legal requirement on AVPB to share the disclosure with the police and/or other agencies** (this is explained below)

When Regional Coordinator or facilitators introduce participants to the confidentiality of our service (e.g. at the beginning of the workshop), **the limits of confidentiality, set out above, should be made clear, albeit in such a way that strives to maintain participants' confidence in the working confidentiality of our service.**

For example, one formulation might be: 'Everything you say in this room will stay in this room. We would have to break this rule if we believed there was a serious risk of harm to someone, but otherwise everything that we do here is confidential within this group of people. It's up to you to think about what you choose to say and do here.'

If in any doubt, please refer to the AVPB Safeguarding Policy which is available in the private section at www.avpbritain.org.uk. Other forms, such as the risk assessment forms and the Safeguarding Incident Report Form are also available there.