

3. VALUES AND PRINCIPLES:

3.1 Core Values:

3.2 The following core values will always be recognised and adhered to by partner agencies in respect of every vulnerable adult:

- **Privacy** – the right of individuals to be left alone or undisturbed and free from intrusion or public attention into their own affairs.
- **Dignity** – the recognition of the intrinsic value of people regardless of circumstances by respecting their uniqueness and their personal needs; treating people with respect.
- **Independence and self-determination** – the opportunity to act and think without reference to another person including a willingness to incur a degree of personal risk.
- **Choice** – the opportunity to select independently from a range of options.
- **Rights** – the maintenance of all entitlements associated with citizenship.
- **Fulfilment** – the realisation of personal aspirations and abilities in all aspects of daily life.

3.3 These core values must be considered in conjunction with the Human Rights Act 1998 (See Section 14: Legal Context, paragraphs 14.63-70).

3.4 Core Principles:

3.5 The following core principles will always apply in responding to suspicions, allegations or incidents of abuse involving vulnerable adults acknowledging the:

- Person's right to self-determination and involvement in decision making is promoted to the fullest capacity. This should be considered in conjunction with paragraphs 8.7 - 8.15 (Section 8: 'Capacity' – The Basic Principles).
- Person is enabled to protect him or her self from harm.
- Involvement of others significant to the person's life is identified and supported.
- Awareness and understanding of other agencies, organisations and the public is raised and promoted and with its commitment to respond.

- Response is appropriate and as only intensive as the situation demands.
- Person is enabled, where possible, to live in the environment of their choice and this includes supporting families to remain together. Where this is not possible, maximum choices are given to where the person wants to live.
- Vulnerable adult and the alleged abuser has the right to the protection of the law. (See 'Special Measures' and provisions under the Youth Justice & Criminal Evidence Act – paragraphs 14.45-48 of Section 14: Legal context)
- Vulnerable adult will have the opportunity and right to comment or complain about the service they receive.
- Vulnerable adults will have the opportunity and right to independent advice and advocacy when they request it. This will also apply to those vulnerable adults who are incapable of making such a request but are deemed in need of such independent advice and advocacy.