

## **HWW's response to WASB's draft Self-Neglect and Hoarding Policy, by email**

### **WASB Self-Neglect and Hoarding Draft Policy - HWW Response to Consultation (November 2021)**

"We welcome the way the policy is laid out and that guidance of this nature is being made available widely across the sectors. We would gently suggest that consideration is given to simplifying the language wherever possible to ensure it is accessible.

There is useful information about legislation and definitions of some complex terms, which is helpful for practitioners and should aid consistency and coherency. The contextual information about self-neglect and hoarding is very beneficial, as are the various diagrams and practical tips section. The emphasis on a person-centred approach is welcome

We have a number of queries for your consideration, such as:

- Who the policy is for (ie does it extend to VCS organisations/volunteers/informal participants?)
- How people can be supported in implementing it, and
- What happens if an individual or an organisation doesn't follow it?
- What sort of awareness-raising on these issues can be undertaken across both formal and informal settings to enhance 'buy-in'?
- How concerns around determining mental capacity will be addressed proactively to ensure prompt and proportionate support
- How mental health services will be able to respond and support the implementation of this policy
- What training can be provided across the sectors to improve consistency, and how might this be funded?
- Where does rough sleeping/street living feature in policies of this nature, given that in some instances sleeping rough could be viewed as a form (or the start) of self-neglect?
- What is the Safeguarding Board's responsibility and plan for 'spreading the word'?
- Are you able to give any indication of the number of people who may be affected?

It is appreciated that some of these comments may be beyond the scope of the policy document.

It appears to be a very helpful document and one that should provide workers in the field with comprehensive guidance to support people who experience these specific conditions. Thank you for sharing the draft policy with HWW.

## **The WASB manager's response, by email**

*Thank you for your response to the consultation on the WSABs Draft Self neglect policy. I am not able to respond at this point to those questions which relate to the procedures within the policy itself, but will feed these back into the Task and*

*Finish group who are reviewing and re-writing the policy. For your information a homelessness provider has been involved in the development of the policy.*

*In the interim I will endeavour to respond to some of your questions, particularly those which are less about content and more about dissemination. My response is in red*

- Who the policy is for (ie does it extend to VCS organisations/volunteers/informal participants?) **The policy is for all practitioners across all sectors.**
- How people can be supported in implementing it, and **Once signed off by the Board the WSAB are planning to publicise and raise awareness of the policy. This will be initiated through a formal launch and the WSAB will then looking at a continuing campaign so it can be shared as widely as possible.**
- What happens if an individual or an organisation doesn't follow it? **The WSAB has an escalation policy, which covers all its policies and can be found on our website. [Escalation-Policy-Resolution-of-Professional-Concerns.pdf](https://safeguardingworcestershires.org.uk/escalation-policy-resolution-of-professional-concerns.pdf) ([safeguardingworcestershires.org.uk](https://safeguardingworcestershires.org.uk))**
- What sort of awareness-raising on these issues can be undertaken across both formal and informal settings to enhance 'buy-in'? **See above re awareness raising campaign**
- How concerns around determining mental capacity will be addressed proactively to ensure prompt and proportionate support **(for Task and Finish group consideration)**
- How mental health services will be able to respond and support the implementation of this policy **(for Task and Finish group consideration)**
- What training can be provided across the sectors to improve consistency, and how might this be funded? **The WSAB will look at this as part of the implementation campaign. However, responsibility for training on safeguarding sits directly with individual organisations. The WSAB has the responsibility to gain assurance that this training is being implemented and embedded.**
- Where does rough sleeping/street living feature in policies of this nature, given that in some instances sleeping rough could be viewed as a form (or the start) of self-neglect? **This is an overarching policy which recognises that there are a variety of behaviours which can coexist with self-neglect, including rough sleeping/street living. There are links in the document to specific information about this and have given an example of a rough sleeper in one of the case studies.**
- What is the Safeguarding Board's responsibility and plan for 'spreading the word'? - **Regarding the plan - see the statement above about dissemination. Responsibility for training on safeguarding sits directly with individual organisations. The WSAB has the responsibility to gain assurance that this training is being implemented and embedded. However it is acknowledged that the WSAB have a responsibility to raise awareness on new or revised policies.**

- Are you able to give any indication of the number of people who may be affected? **There is currently no systematic way to measure this. However we are looking at measures to monitor this in the future.**