

Contribute to the protection of individuals from abuse

Overview

This standard is about protecting individuals from abuse through minimising the level of abuse within environments, minimising the effects of abusive behaviour and monitoring individuals who are at risk from abuse.

Abuse may be emotional, financial, physical, psychological or sexual. Abusive behaviour may be directed at the person themselves, or other people, or the environment.

Individuals at risk from abuse may be those abusing themselves, for example through the use of substances or self-harming behaviours, or those at risk from abuse by another.

In working with offenders you are expected to consistently display the skills of pro-social modelling, offender engagement and professional judgment to encourage offenders to desist from their offending behaviour and to reduce the risk of re-offending.

There are three elements

1. Contribute to minimising the occurrence of abuse
2. Minimise the effects of abusive behaviour
3. Contribute to monitoring individuals who are at risk from abuse

Target group

This standard is aimed at those workers who are in a position to contribute to the protection of individuals from abuse. It is particularly suited to those working within the justice sector, including community and custodial settings.

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Performance criteria

You must be able to:

Contribute to minimising the occurrence of abuse

1. obtain and review the programme plan regarding the individual and familiarise yourself with the circumstances
2. check that the whereabouts of the individual is consistent with their programme plan
3. offer advice and support to those within the environment on how to minimise the possibility of abuse
4. take actions appropriate to the situation and in line with organisational procedures where there are any indications of abuse
5. report information on abuse to the appropriate person in line with organisational procedures
6. seek advice, guidance and support when you are unsure about the boundaries of your relationship with individuals
7. assist individuals who behave in an inappropriate manner to examine ways in which their behaviour may be seen as abusive, where this has been agreed by the team
8. suggest ways in which your organisation's policies, procedures and routines towards minimising the level of abuse could be improved, to those responsible for maintaining them
9. maintain records in line with your organisation's requirements

Minimise the effects of abusive behaviour

10. model pro-social behaviour, free from discrimination or aggression, and encourage an open exchange of views
11. explain to individuals who display abusive behaviour why this behaviour is unacceptable, using techniques which respect the individual
12. take action to divert any abusive behaviour while promoting the rights of those involved
13. seek advice and support when team discussion and supervision are required
14. take action to minimise risk and disturbance to others
15. submit records to those who require and are entitled to them, maintaining confidentiality where appropriate

Contribute to monitoring individuals who are at risk from abuse

16. monitor individuals in accordance with the time intervals required in their plan
17. report changes in the individual's condition and behaviour to the correct

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person, and seek advice about the action to take

18. confirm with others the accuracy and authenticity of information received

19. monitor and review individuals at risk with relevant others

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Knowledge and understanding

You need to know and understand:

Legislative, regulatory and organisational requirements

1. legal and organisational requirements which relate to the protection of individuals from abuse, and their impact for your area of operations
2. legislation, policies and procedures relating to data protection, health and safety, diversity and their impact for your area of operations
3. the role of your organisation and the services which it provides in relation to minimising abuse, and the monitoring of individuals at risk from abuse
4. organisational policy and procedures regarding confidentiality of information and the disclosure of information to third parties, and the specific circumstances under which disclosure may be made
5. organisational requirements relating to allowing others to be present in discussions with victims/survivors, and the relative benefits and disadvantages that the presence of others can create
6. the limits of your authority and responsibility, and the actions to take if these are exceeded

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7. the indicators of potential or actual abuse, including awareness of changes in behaviour for the particular individual
8. the different forms of abusive behaviour which may occur
9. the effects of different forms of abuse in both the short term and the long term
10. methods of preventing abusive situations
11. the impact which the overall environment may have on instances of abusive behaviour and the way in which staff may fuel or defuse this by their behaviour
12. the different forms and range of effective communication, and the effect of culture on communication
13. the impact of emotional, physical, psychological and social development on the behaviour of individuals
14. different ways of encouraging individuals to see the need to change their behaviour and develop the motivation to do so
15. the obstacles to change which may exist for individuals and methods of overcoming them
16. the ways in which it is necessary to alter communication when working with different individuals and representatives of different organisations
17. the impact of crime on victims and their need for protection, respect, recognition and information

18. how situations can be handled where there is a potential conflict of interests

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