

POLICY CONCERNING ABUSE OF THE VULNERABLE

1. The Trustees of Parson Latham's Hospital in Barnwell are determined that all Residents living in the almshouses will not be subject to abuse of any kind.
2. Abuse is any act, or lack of action, single or repeated, where harm or distress is caused to a vulnerable person in a situation or relationship where there is an expectation of trust, security and well being.
3. Such abuse may be physical, verbal, emotional, sexual, financial and by intent or by neglect or accident. It may be by discrimination or prejudice.
4. A vulnerable person is an adult who by reason of age, disability, illness or infirmity is unable to fully care for his or her own welfare and cannot protect themselves against harm, hurt or exploitation.
5. The Trustees, as far as they are able, will use their best endeavours to deal promptly with any abuse of which they become, or are made, aware. They will seek to ascertain the circumstances and the reasons and person(s) involved. They will take such action as is necessary to bring the abuse to an end and ensure it is not repeated. They may, if necessary, report to, involve and collaborate with other agencies. Where appropriate the Resident's right to confidentiality will be respected and any records kept will not be divulged except to those who need to know.
6. In order that this policy can be as effective as possible, Residents who are subject to abuse, or who become aware of the abuse of others, must take steps to notify any of the Trustees or the Clerk, acting on their behalf.