



Ability Cooperative Limited

What did you do?

In February, two staff from Ability Cooperative attended our Adult Safeguarding Basic Awareness course. Both staff members were really engaged, and keen to discuss the training in the context of their work with adults with learning disabilities. Their enthusiasm to learn more, and desire to follow good practice, made us keen to offer further support.

Through our existing working relationship with Ability Cooperative Ltd as members of the **Elevate Salford programme**, we were able to reach out and offer some additional support to review their current Adult Safeguarding policy. This led to a conversation about a particular challenge the organisation faces in terms of managing allegations. We sought specialist advice from the Ann Craft Trust about defensible decision making and how to implement it. We have also shared information about providers that offer Level 3 training for Designated Safeguarding Leads.

In July we set up a quarterly **Peer Support Group** for Designated Safeguarding Leads to give an opportunity for discussions and to work collaboratively on safeguarding challenges. Leigh, the Designated Safeguarding Lead from Ability Cooperative, joined the first session.

Safeguarding support received

- **Adult Safeguarding training**
- **Support to review Adult Safeguarding policy**
- **Support to seek specialist advice regarding a safeguarding theme**



What difference did it make?

Since receiving feedback about their Safeguarding policy, Leigh has updated it and it has been approved by the Ability Cooperative Board. The team have now changed their approach to managing repeat allegations and feel confident that the process is more supportive.

What advice would you give to another group delivering a similar project?

Leigh commented: *“It’s definitely worth getting support to review your safeguarding policy as it gives you confidence that it’s watertight, and that no one can say that it isn’t right.”*

What are the organisation’s hopes for the future?

Ability Cooperative are looking to increase the number of beneficiaries that they can work with, supporting more people into employment where possible. **They have increased their growing capacity by 250% in the last financial year**, working with the National Trust, Natural England and Lancashire Wildlife Trust as customers.

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