**ASG safeguarding policy**

ASG is committed to providing a safe space for those who attend our meetings. Discussing the deeply emotional impact of another person’s drinking can leave us feeling exposed and vulnerable. We therefore aim to provide a supportive, understanding environment in which confidentiality and anonymity are taken seriously.

We all have the right to be safe from harm, including those with the protected characteristics of age, disability, gender, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy, race, religious belief, sex and sexual orientation. As part of our duty of care to our group members we affirm these principles.

Mr Matthew Nelmes has gone through a basic Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check and holds a Diploma in Drug, Solvent & Alcohol Abuse Counselling.

Our group has the following in place:

Public liability insurance

Data protection policy

Health and safety policy

Code of conduct

Our group is only for those aged 18 years old and over. Where necessary we will signpost help from outside agencies to our members for further support. If a safeguarding concern emerges then we will consider what appropriate action needs to be taken:

In an emergency, calling 999

If a crime has been committed, calling the police

If there is a serious welfare concern, contacting the local authority adult social care or children’s services if it concerns a minor

If advice and guidance is needed about a situation, calling the local authority safeguarding officer

This policy will be reviewed annually with updates added as necessary.

April 2023

Next review April 2024