

## **RAISING A CONCERN—SEAFARERS**

### **SEE IT**

Recognise what you are seeing or hearing may be the potential abuse or neglect of an individual

### **DOES THE INDIVIDUAL NEED MEDICAL TREATMENT?**

If not already receiving medical treatment ensure that the individual is taken to receive the appropriate medical treatment

### **INITIAL INFORMATION GATHERING**

When speaking to an individual consider:

- What they would like to happen?
- Consider the individual's Mental Health
- What pressures may they be under?
- Have they experienced, or are they at risk of, abuse and neglect?
- What is the level of risk to self or others? Is it on-going?
- What type of, and which, vessel are they from?
- Do you need to take advice?

### **IS THE INDIVIDUAL FROM A FISHING VESSEL?**

**YES**

**NO**

#### **INFORM FISHERIES:**

In hours Tel ; 27260

Out of hours Tel: 53045

Matt Jenkins: MJenkins@naturalresources.gov.fk

Stevie Bennett: SBennett@naturalresources.gov.fk

#### **FISHERIES WILL:**

- Inform FIMA
- Inform Local Company
- Lighthouse Seafarer's Mission

#### **INFORM MARITIME AUTHORITY (FIMA):**

In hours Tel: 27233

Out of hours Tel: 54648

Maritime.authority@sec.gov.fk

#### **MARITIME AUTHORITY TO:**

- Inform Fisheries (if linked to fishing industry)
- Inform Local Company (if appropriate)
- Lighthouse Seafarer's Mission

## **GUIDANCE—RAISING A CONCERN FOR SEAFARERS**

This guidance is intended to clarify the process to be followed if you have concerns about a seafarer—an individual that is employed on board a boat or ship. This process sits outside of the Safeguarding Adults procedure and guidance, as the laws and protections that apply to seafarers are different to those that are resident in the Falkland Islands.

Detailed guidance on what may constitute abuse and neglect is available in ***Safeguarding Adults in the Falkland Islands—Guidance for Professionals***. Defining abuse or neglect can be complex however some indicators may include;

- The person appears frightened or subdued
- Medical problems that go unattended/ evidence of over/under medication
- The person appears malnourished or physical presentation is poor e.g. inadequate clothing for the conditions
- The person is not in possession of their legal documents, and these are being held by someone else
- They appear under the control of others

### **Remember:**

- Does the narrative fit with what you are seeing in front of you? Remain open minded!
- Remain sensitive to cultural differences.
- What is the level of risk to the individuals and others. Is it an on-going risk? What is the level of urgency?
- Collect as much information as practicable to support your concerns

### **1. What they would like to happen?**

From the very first stage of concerns being identified, the person's views should be sought. This will enable them to give their perspectives about the abuse or neglect concerns that you may have, and what outcomes they would like to achieve. These views should directly inform what happens next. The person must be asked for their consent to report the concern. If consent is withheld but there are risks to others, or if the risk to the person is considered at a significant level to justify intervening without the person's consent then advice is available from the relevant authorities set out in the flow diagram.

### **2. Consider the individual's Mental Health and what pressures may they be under?**

If not previously considered how does the person's mental health appear? What pressures may they be under? Consider the fact that they may be under direct or indirect pressure. Most times the individuals translating for the person you are seeing are either representatives of the vessel owner or company. Consider what effect this may have on the individual's willingness to speak openly. There is also the possibility that translation is not accurate—what other options are available to you to facilitate confidential communication?

### **3. What type of, and which, vessel are they from?**

If you're not sure, then a vessel name will help identify what type of vessel it is. Advice is available from either FIMA or Fisheries on the contact details overleaf

### **4. Do you need to take advice?**

Both Fisheries and FIMA are always available to offer confidential help and advice if you need it. Contacting them does not automatically mean that you need to escalate your concerns to an official referral.

### **How do I make a referral?**

You can raise initial concerns via a telephone call or email. Any concerns raised over a telephone call must be backed up by an email, as soon as it is possible to do so. There is no set form to make a referral on.

### **What next?**

Depending on the nature of the concern raised it will be the responsibility of either Fisheries, or the Falkland Islands Maritime Authority (FIMA), to inform any other departments as may be considered necessary, including the Royal Falkland Islands Police, Customs and Immigration, Social Services Department, Government House and Government Legal Services.