

Revised: May 2026

DATA PROTECTION POLICY

Guidance and procedures

PURPOSE

This document is a short brief on the requirements of General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). It also covers the procedures Age UK Cambridgeshire & Peterborough (AUKCAP) has adopted to comply with legal requirements, demonstrate that these procedures have been adopted, monitor our performance and encourage good practice.

AUKCAP aims to be open about the type and extent of the personal data it holds. This data will only be what is necessary to fulfil its objective of promoting the well-being of older people in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough . Our interpretation of the legislation will give priority to the interests of the data subject and addressing their needs.

GDPR applies to all our activities with or on behalf of older people and to the internal operation of the charity, including all data about our employees, volunteers, and trustees.

We are all responsible to make sure we are aware of the requirements of the GDPR and AUKCAPs procedures. Other documents relevant to this subject are:

- Confidentiality policy and procedures
- IT and Social Media Code of Practice
- Disclosure & Barring Checks Policy and Code of Practice

SCOPE

The topics covered in the policy include:

- 1) Information covered by GDPR
- 2) AUKCAP as a data controller
- 3) Holding and taking care of personal data
- 4) Obtaining and using personal data fairly

- 5) Recruitment & Personnel records
- 6) Disclosure to a third party
- 7) Requests for access to personal data
- 8) Record keeping – storage & disposal
- 9) Encouraging good practice & Monitoring our compliance.

POLICY

1) INFORMATION COVERED BY GDPR

- 1.1 GDPR forms part of the data protection regime in the UK, together with the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA 2018). It applies to personal data. This is information from which a living individual can be identified, either directly or indirectly (from other information held).
- 1.2 Personal data does not have to be written and includes visual, photographic, and other non-text data. This covers information held on computer, other electronic equipment, paper-based records and other records (e.g. photographs).

2) AUKCAP AS A DATA CONTROLLER

- 2.1 Organisations or individuals holding personal data are data controllers. Many data controllers including AUKCAP must notify the Information Commissioner that we are processing personal data. The Information Commissioner maintains a public register of data controllers.
- 2.2 The Data Protection Commission has a list of standard purposes. In addition, AUKCAP is registered for “any other purpose that is deemed necessary and appropriate to enable the charity to fulfil its objectives and be innovative and responsive”.
- 2.3 The Senior Information Risk Owner is responsible for ensuring there is a valid notification in the register of data controllers.

3) HOLDING & TAKING CARE OF PERSONAL DATA

- 3.1 You are only allowed to use personal data for the purposes for which it was originally obtained. Personal information you hold must be:
 - Processed lawfully, fairly and in a transparent manner in relation to individuals;
 - Collected for specified, explicit and legitimate purposes and not further processed in a manner that is incompatible with those purposes. Further processing for archiving purposes

in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes shall not be considered to be incompatible with the initial purposes;

- Must be adequate, relevant, and limited to what is necessary in relation to the purposes for which they are processed.
- Accurate and, where necessary kept up to date; every reasonable step must be taken to ensure that personal data that is inaccurate, having regards to the purposes for which they are processed, is erased or rectified without delay;
- Kept in a format which permits identification of data subjects for no longer than is necessary for the purposes for which the personal data is processed. Personal data may be stored for longer periods insofar as the personal data will be processed solely for archiving purposes in the public interest, scientific or historical research purposes or statistical purposes subject to implementation of the appropriate technical and organisation measures required by the GDPR in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals;
- Processed in a manner that ensures appropriate security of personal data, including protection against unauthorised or unlawful processing and against accidental loss, destruction or damage, using appropriate technical or organisation measures.

3.2 See *Confidentiality Policy appendix 1, Retaining Records* for policy on time limit for retaining records.

3.3 Members of staff who, as part of their roles, are required to collect and maintain personal data must take good care of data which they hold. There are two types of security breach that AUKCAP must protect against: (1) unauthorised access (2) data getting damaged, lost or destroyed.

3.3.1 Unauthorised access:

- Personal information must be securely stored in a locked filing cabinet or protected by access permissions on SharePoint. Personal data must not be kept on a computer screen unless it is being processed and hard copies must not be left unattended. Such data must be kept in a closed file folder when on the desk. Staff, volunteers and trustees should only have access to personal information when this

is reasonable, relevant and necessary to undertake their role within AUKCAP.

- Trustees do not have the right of access to service user records, personnel files or other personal information unless this information is relevant to a complaint, grievance, disciplinary or other formal investigation.
- Very occasionally it will be necessary to remove personal information/case files or other documents from AUKCAP's premises. This may be to allow records to be referred to during a meeting or conversation or to make such records available for scrutiny by a service user. Great care must be taken to ensure the security of such papers. Files removed from the office will be placed in an envelope marked 'Private & Confidential' with AUKCAP's contact details on the outside and if it is necessary to leave files in a car they must be placed in the boot and not left on display. A note giving details of the file removed will be left at the office and recorded on Charity Log. Papers will be returned promptly.
- All personal and highly sensitive data sent via email should be protected by encryption with the use of appropriate subject line. Emails must be marked as 'Private and Confidential'.
- Password protection/ Restricted Access will be used to restrict inappropriate access to personal and sensitive information.
- When disposing of confidential manual files all information must be shredded.
- Electronic files need to be deleted and removed from the recycle bin on SharePoint to prevent unauthorised access.

3.3.2 Damage, loss or destruction: You must take reasonable steps to protect against the risks of damage, loss or destruction of personal information

- AUKCAP have transitioned to cloud storage, it is the responsibility of each employee to follow advice from the IT contractors to save their work on the cloud (Sharepoint) which works as a back up to protect against data loss.
- It each employees' responsibility to keep their machines compliant by performing regular system updates and to follow advice given by the IT contractors.

- AUKCAP has software installed to protect against computer viruses. Our outsourced contractors operate 'real time' virus checks.
- Measures must be taken to ensure AUKCAP premises are protected from the risks of fire and theft as part of AUKCAPs risk assessment procedures.
- Our IT contractors run Sharepoint and user email backups daily at 2am, records are held for 30 days. AVD Server (Sage) backup is run daily at 8pm and records held for 30 days. All backups are secured, encrypted and held off site.

4)OBTAINING AND USING PERSONAL DATA FAIRLY

4.1 As a data controller AUKCAP must ensure that the rights of the data subjects under the legislation are preserved. These rights are as follows:

- The right to be informed;
- The right of access;
- The right to rectification;
- The right to erasure;
- The right to restrict processing;
- The right to data portability;
- The right to object;
- Rights in relation to automated decisions making and profiling.

This is done by:

AUKCAPs notification to the Information Commissioner
All staff who obtain, store, use or destroy information must put in place measures to inform the data subject about personal information held by AUKCAP and obtain evidence of their consent (unless consent is obvious from the context in which data is collected). Where support is provided via telephone this this can be done by recording verbal consent. For more complex or face to face contact with AUKCAP, this should be confirmed in writing.

4.2 The following data protection notification must be included as a minimum requirement for service documents.

"Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough receives funds from various organisations, such as local authorities, district and parish councils, NHS and other charities, to deliver many of our services. In order to provide support to you as a

service user and also demonstrate to those organisations who provide funds, we seek permission to store your personal details to ensure we comply with the General Data Protection Regulations. We may also need to forward your details, with your consent, to other organisations in order to seek further appropriate support for you. Any information stored will only be used for the purpose intended and will not be shared with any parties, other than those discussed and in exceptional circumstances; these will be destroyed when no longer required. Please tick the box below if you consent to us recording and sharing your details when required to do so.

I agree to the recording of my personal details ☐

I agree to my personal details being shared with other appropriate organisation, those organisations being

You can withdraw or change these consents at any time.
Please contact by Email: adminservices@ageukcap.org.uk
Telephone: 01354 691890

or

Write to: Administration Services,
Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough,
South Fens Business Centre, Fenton Way, Chatteris, PE16 6TT"

- 4.3 There are additional requirements for **sensitive personal data**. This includes information about racial/ethnic origin, political opinions, religious beliefs, trade union membership, physical or mental health, sexual life, alleged or actual offences or proceedings relating to an alleged or actual offence.

All staff who obtain use, store or destroy **sensitive personal data** must put in place measures to ensure that the data subject has given their explicit consent. This means that when verbal consent is given, this must be followed up by written confirmation where possible.

5) RECRUITMENT AND PERSONNEL RECORDS

5.1 All applicants must be informed about how their personal data will be used. It is recommended that the following information is inserted:

“By signing and returning this application form you consent to AUKCAP using and keeping information about you or by third parties (such as referees) relating to your application or future employment. This information will be used solely in the recruitment process. For unsuccessful candidates the information will be destroyed within 6 months unless you have consented to extend this period”.

5.2 All personnel records for staff and volunteers must be treated as sensitive personal information. Senior staff holding personal data about staff or volunteers must take particular care about the security of this information. Sickness and absence records must be held separately and securely.

6) DISCLOSURE TO A THIRD PARTY

Information can only legally be disclosed to a third party if it is fair under the terms of the General Data Protection Regulations.

6.1 All representatives of AUKCAP must obtain the consent of the data subject before disclosing personal information to a third party unless there are exceptional circumstances. You must carefully consider the risks and benefits of all disclosures, when these will be done without the consent of the data subject.

6.2 If the data subject has withheld consent to disclosure, personal information must not be disclosed to a third party unless there is an exemption that will legally permit disclosure (e.g. legal requirement, emergency). The Chief Executive must be notified of all cases where disclosure to a third party is planned to go ahead and the data subject has refused consent.

6.3 You must not access personal data without the authority to do so and you must not knowingly or recklessly disclose it to third parties without meeting the requirements below.

6.4 You cannot use data for direct marketing of any goods or services, if the data subject has told you not to.

7) REQUESTS FOR ACCESS TO PERSONAL DATA

- 7.1 Data subjects can ask to see the personal data you hold on them, including manual files. A Subject Access Request form shall be completed by the individual making the request to assist AGEUKCAP in locating all relevant information (see Appendix 1).
- 7.2 AUKCAP has one month to comply with a request. AUKCAP will not normally charge a fee to comply with a subject access request. However, there may be circumstances, for instance if a request is manifestly unfounded or excessive, when the organisation feels it is necessary to charge a "reasonable fee" for the administrative costs of complying with a request. We may also charge a reasonable fee if an individual requests further copies of their data following a request. In this case the fee will be equivalent to the administrative costs of providing further copies.
- 7.3 When receiving a request, it is important to assess whether it is fair to release the information when a third party is involved. Information can be edited or withheld to protect the identity of a third party. A third party can also be asked to consent to the disclosure.

8) RECORD KEEPING – STORAGE, DISPOSAL & TRANSFER OF DATA

- 8.1 Personal information can be held in a variety of documents, and it is important to adhere to the recommendations for storage and disposal of each category of document. Guidelines for each category can be found within our Confidentiality Policy.
- 8.2 Staff are prohibited from transferring or disclosing personal data or organisational information to personal email accounts under any circumstances, unless formally authorised and risk-assessed.
- Breaches of this requirement may be treated as a disciplinary matter and could also represent a breach of data protection legislation, including the UK GDPR.

9) ENCOURAGING GOOD PRACTICE AND MONITORING COMPLIANCE

- 9.1 To ensure that AUKCAP develops good data protection practice, implementation of data protection procedures will be maintained and monitored by the Leadership team.

9.2 All staff and volunteers who have contact with personal data will be briefed to understand their responsibilities for data protection.

9.3 AUKCAP will ensure staff and volunteers are aware that the charity monitors email, social media and telephone use (see IT and Social Media Code of Practice).

9.4 Breaches of data protection should be reported to your manager, recorded, and investigated. Serious breaches of AUKCAPs guidance and procedures will be treated as a disciplinary offence.

MONITORING

This policy will be reviewed every 12 months.

Data Protection policy approved: May 2025

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hazel Williams', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Signed by Chair of Trustees

Appendix 1

Subject access request (self)

Your contact details

The information you supply will be held in accordance with your rights under data protection laws.

(Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough referred to as Age UK CAP)

Title (tick box as appropriate)	Mrs ☐ Miss ☐ Ms ☐ Mr ☐ Other ☐ (please state):
First name	
Last name	
Any other names you may be known by (such as maiden name or any other previous names)	
Date of birth	
How do you want us to respond to your request?	By post ☐ email ☐
Postal address	
email address	
Any other email address(es) you may have used to contact Age UK CAP	
Telephone or mobile number	
Any other contact numbers you may have used to contact Age UK CAP	

The information you are requesting

Is there any specific information you require? e.g. information about specific matters, or between certain dates You have a right of access to all personal data that Age UK CAP holds about you, but you may not require it all. We can usually respond quicker if you only ask for the specific data required.	
Please provide the names of any Age UK CAP employees or departments you have had contact with? You don't have to give us this information, but it will help us to find the data required and provide it to you.	
Are you a current or former employee of Age UK CAP? Yes ☐ No ☐ If yes, please supply your employee number (if known) and the names of any line managers you have had if relevant to your request:	

Proof of your identity

To help us establish your identity, your application must be accompanied by **copies of two official documents** which between them show your name, date of birth and current address. For example: a copy of a passport, driver's licence, utility bill, council tax bill, or any other official document which shows your name and address.

Please send us **copies only**.

Before you return this form

Please check you have completed all sections of the form and have enclosed copies of the documents we have asked you to provide.

When you have completed and checked this form, send it with copies of your proof of identification by email to admin@ageukcap.org.uk or hard copies can be posted marked Private and Confidential to:

Age UK Cambridgeshire and Peterborough
South Fens Business Centre
Fenton Way
Chatteris
Cambs
PE16 6TT

Using your Information

The information you supply on this form will be held securely by Age UK CAP and will be used to locate the information you have requested. We will use your contact details to keep you informed of the progress of your request and to provide you with our response.

We may be required to share some of the information you supply with other people and teams within Age UK CAP so that we can locate the information you have requested and make decisions on disclosure.

We hold records of information requests and our responses for seven years.

For Age UK CAP use only

Staff receiving the request?	
Application checked and legible?	Yes / No
Identification documents checked?	Yes / No
What identification was provided?	
Identification documents returned?	Yes / No / Not applicable – copies securely destroyed