



## **SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS POLICY**

### **1.0 Introduction and Aim**

- 1.1 This policy is designed to provide a set of principles and a framework to manage the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults across all activities undertaken by the Trust.
- 1.2 The primary aims of this policy are to ensure that the Trust complies with its legal and moral obligations to protect children and vulnerable adults, has systems in place to identify when children and vulnerable adults are at risk, and takes appropriate action when risks are identified.

### **2.0 Scope**

- 2.1 This policy applies to everyone who works on behalf of the Trust including staff members, volunteers, casual staff members, agency workers, Board Members, suppliers and contractors, and it applies to all activities undertaken by the Trust.
- 2.2 The policy complies with all relevant statutory provisions and will be updated to take into account any future relevant legislation.

### **3.0 Definitions**

- 3.1 “child” means a person under the age of 18.
- 3.2 “vulnerable adult” means a person aged 18 or over who may have needs for care and support (even if they are not receiving them) and who may be unable to care for themselves or protect themselves from significant harm or exploitation. A person may need care and support services and be unable to care for and protect themselves due to:
  - physical disability
  - physical or mental illness
  - learning difficulties
  - reduced physical or mental capacity due to older age
  - dependency on alcohol, illegal drugs and/or medication
- 3.3 “safeguarding” means protecting children and vulnerable adults from harm, abuse and neglect whether the risk is presented by someone else or themselves.
- 3.4 “abuse” means any behaviour towards a person that deliberately or unknowingly causes them harm, endangers life or violates their rights. Abuse may be:

- Physical (use of force that may result in injury, pain or impairment)
- Sexual (forced and/or undesired sexual behaviour)
- Psychological (being made to feel unhappy, humiliated or devalued)
- Financial (stealing or denying access to money or possessions)
- Neglect and acts of omission (failure to provide basic physical or psychological needs)
- Self neglect (where an individual fails to meet their own basic physical or psychological needs)
- Domestic (incident(s) of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse by someone who is or has been an intimate partner or family member)
- Organisational (mistreatment or neglect by a regime or individuals in an organisational setting or service)
- Discrimination (abuse based on a person's disability, age, gender, sexuality, ethnicity, faith or other protected characteristic)
- Hate crime (crimes targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice based on any aspect of their identity)
- Forced marriage (marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties and where duress is a factor)
- Modern slavery (forced servitude, compulsory labour and human trafficking)
- Radicalisation (leading someone to develop extreme political, social or religious views)

#### **4.0 Legal Context**

4.1 There are no specific legal obligations for housing providers to safeguard children but there is a general expectation that providers should assist Local Authorities in fulfilling their statutory obligations.

4.2 There is a specific obligation for housing providers in the Care Act 2014 which requires that:

“All service providers, including housing and housing support providers, should have clear operational policies and procedures that reflect the framework set by the SAB (Safeguarding Adults Board) in consultation with them. This should include what circumstances would lead to the need to report outside their own chain of line management, including outside their own organisation to the local authority.”

There is also an expectation that providers will carry out enquiries if required by the Local Authority if there is a reasonable suspicion that is at risk of abuse or neglect.

#### **5.0 Principles**

5.1 We will not tolerate or collude with any form of neglect or abuse. We aim to promote and safeguard the welfare of all our customers and will be proactive in responding to any allegation or suspicion of abuse. We also empower our customers by ensuring they are fully aware of what constitutes abuse and how to report it.

5.2 The Trust has adopted the six principles recommended by the Government to underpin our safeguarding approach:

- Empowerment – we will involve individuals in decisions about them where appropriate and get informed consent where possible
- Protection – we will support and represent those who need it
- Prevention – we will take action to prevent harm occurring where it's possible to do so
- Proportionality – we will take proportionate action and use the least intrusive response to the risk(s) presented
- Partnership – we will work with partner agencies and our communities to prevent, detect and report neglect and abuse
- Accountability – we will be accountable for our actions and decisions

5.3 Additionally we will:

- Ensure that concerns about children and vulnerable adults are reported to the appropriate statutory agencies.
- Challenge the decisions of other agencies if we do not agree with them and use the escalation procedures available to us where needed.
- Work together with Social Care to resolve issues where an individual may not be eligible for Social Care support, refuses support or self neglects.
- Participate as required in public protection forums including local safeguarding children and adults boards, multi-agency risk assessment conferences (MARAC), multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA), health and wellbeing boards and community safety partnerships in our areas of operation.
- Provide training and guidance to staff and board members, volunteers, suppliers and contractors to ensure they are clear about their safeguarding responsibilities whilst working on behalf of the Trust.
- Provide guidance to staff and board members about sharing information, data protection and confidentiality in respect of their safeguarding duties.
- Provide information to customers about our safeguarding responsibilities and also what they should do if they have cause for concern about an individual.
- Carry out appropriate checks on staff members and volunteers who have significant contact with children and/or vulnerable adults in the course of their work for the Trust. We also require our contractors and suppliers to do the same.
- Report any concerns regarding professionals, volunteers, contractors and/or staff members to the Local Authority.
- Assist Adult Social Care fulfil their duties under the Care Act 2014 by making enquiries about an adult at risk if we are asked to do so.
- Adopt a 'Team Around the Family' approach to dealing with customers who have multiple tenancy issues and support needs.

## **6.0 Responsibility**

6.1 Everyone who works for or on behalf of the Trust has a responsibility for safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

- 6.2 All staff members, volunteers, suppliers and contractors are expected to report any concerns they have about children or vulnerable adults to their line manager or a member of the Leadership Team. This includes any concerns they have about the conduct of professionals, volunteers, contractors or colleagues.
- 6.3 All Team Leaders and Managers have enhanced responsibilities and are expected to make referrals to other agencies where appropriate and also to advise and guide their staff members on safeguarding related matters. Team Leaders and Managers are also expected to report concerns about the conduct of professionals, volunteers, contractors and Trust staff members to the Local Authority, and HR Team in the case of staff members.
- 6.4 All Directors are responsible for making sure that this Policy is fully implemented in their Directorates.
- 6.5 The Chief Executive has overall responsibility for Safeguarding at the Trust.
- 6.6 If members of staff fail in their obligations under this Policy there may be a requirement for an investigation to take place. This will be conducted in line with the guidance set out in our Disciplinary Policy and Procedure.

**7.0 Customer Profiles and Accessing Services data**

7.1

Data from the following sources, regarding Customer profiling and the way in which they access the Trust's services, was utilised in implementation / review of this policy (as indicated by √ )			
Star Survey		Customer Satisfaction Surveys	
PIE Group		Tenant Inspectors	
Customer Involvement Group		KPI's (service performance)	
Complaints Panel		Other (specify)	√
Community Groups			
Review of number and type of cases referred to Support & Wellbeing Team and external support providers including Integrated Early Support. Review of involvement in child protection cases and learning from LSCB and IES Audits. Reference to CWAC safeguarding policies and procedures and SCIE safeguarding guidance for housing providers.			

## 8.0 Customer Influence (Consultation)

### 8.1

The Trust has been influenced by the following customer groups regarding the implementation / review of this policy (as indicated by √ )			
TCC	√	Resident Involvement Group (specify which)	
CIG (specify which)		Community Groups	
E Voice		Other (specify which)	
Questionnaire		Other	√
Safeguarding Steering Group and Enterprise Managers.			

This policy will be implemented through supporting procedures and guidance notes. Procedure and guidance notes should always be used in conjunction with the Policy in order to provide a consistent approach in the practical implementation of this area of operation.

Author of Policy	Date of Review	Approved by (i.e. EMT/Board)	Review Date
Toni Reed	July 2016	EMT on 3 August 2016	August 2019

## Race and Diversity Impact Assessment

The term policy refers to any activity Weaver Vale does – whether that is a policy or procedure we write or review, a service we provide, an OSDP project, or an initiative we run.

Department:	Corporate	Officer responsible for the assessment:	Toni Reed
Name of Policy to be assessed:	Safeguarding Policy	Date of Assessment:	26/6/16
		Is this a new or existing policy?	Existing
1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the policy.	To make sure that the Trust complies with its legal and moral obligations to protect children and vulnerable adults, has systems in place to identify when children and vulnerable adults are at risk and takes appropriate action when risks are identified.		
2. Who is intended to benefit from this policy, and in what way?	Children and vulnerable adults by being protected from harm. The Trust by complying with legal requirements.		
<b>When completing the section below consider whether the services made available through the policy are accessible to everyone with the community. Bear in mind any economic, social, environmental, physical, intellectual, cultural, linguistic, technological or other barriers.</b>			
3. Are there concerns that the policy <b>could</b> have a differential impact either positive or negative due to their age?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	
What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Can any positive/negative impact be justified?	The policy highlights that adults may become vulnerable through reduced capacity due to older age. This may lead to undue consideration being given to the age of customers when considering vulnerability and may be positive or negative depending on the circumstances and outcome. However the impact is justifiable to ensure that vulnerabilities resulting from reduced capacity are identified.		
4. Are there concerns that the policy <b>could</b> have a differential impact either positive or negative due to disability?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	

<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Can any positive/negative impact be justified?</p>	<p>The policy highlights that adults may be vulnerable due to physical or mental illness and disabilities. This may lead to undue consideration being given to a customer's disabilities when considering vulnerability and may be positive or negative depending on the circumstances and outcome. However the impact is justifiable to ensure that vulnerabilities resulting from disability are identified.</p>	
<p>5. Are there concerns that the policy <b>could</b> have a differential impact either positive or negative on people with literacy issues?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Can any positive/negative impact be justified?</p>		
<p>6. Are there concerns that the policy <b>could</b> have a differential impact either positive or negative due to gender?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Can any positive/negative impact be justified?</p>		
<p>7. Are there concerns that the policy <b>could</b> have a differential impact either positive or negative on racial groups?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Can any positive/negative impact be justified?</p>		
<p>8. Are there concerns that the policy <b>could</b> have a differential impact either positive or negative due to their faith or religious belief?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	

<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Can any positive/negative impact be justified?</p>			
<p>9. Are there concerns that the policy <b>could</b> have a differential impact either positive or negative due to any other equality issues? (e.g. people with dependents and or/ caring responsibilities or people with a criminal record)</p>	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this? Can any positive/negative impact be justified?</p>	<p>The policy highlights that adults may become vulnerable through reduced capacity due to substance dependency. This may lead to undue consideration being given to this aspect when considering vulnerability and may be positive or negative depending on the circumstances and outcome. However the impact is justifiable to ensure that vulnerabilities resulting from substance dependency are identified. Similarly the policy highlights that adults may become vulnerable due to learning difficulties and this carries the same risk in judging vulnerability. Again this is justified to make sure that vulnerability is comprehensively considered.</p>		
<p>10. Are there concerns that the policy <b>could</b> have a differential impact either positive or negative due to sexual orientation?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	
<p>What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this/ Can any positive/negative impact be justified?</p>			
<p>11. Are there concerns that the policy <b>could</b> have a differential impact either positive or negative on Transgender People?</p>	<p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/></p>	<p>No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	



What existing evidence (either presumed or otherwise) do you have for this/ Can any positive/negative impact be justified?					
12. Could the differential impact identified in 3-10 amount to there being the potential for adverse impact in this policy?		No			
Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group? Or any other reason?		N/A			
Should a full impact assessment to be carried out? (Add target date)		Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Area of Negative Impact	Action	Target Date	Responsible	Outcomes for Customers	Progress