



# Safeguarding Policy

## Introduction

1. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for our residents. All our residents have the right to be safe from harm and must be able to live free from fear of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

We have a duty of care to keep all of our residents safe from harm. The large majority of our residents have the capacity to keep themselves safe and to make informed choices and decisions. Where someone is vulnerable to abuse (eg because of a disability, age etc.), we will act to support and help them.

Abuse takes many different forms, ranging from neglect, physical, psychological, financial abuse which can take place in the home to institutional or systematic practices.

Safeguarding is a multi-agency function which depends on effective joint working. We recognise the lead responsibility of local authorities in coordinating safeguarding work. In Tower Hamlets the Safeguarding Board has legal duties and sets standards for other agencies, which involves us. We are also responsible for alerting children's / adult's services and the police of any concerns we have regarding the safety of our residents.

We define safeguarding as promoting the right of people to live without suffering, or the fear of suffering, abuse or neglect.

## Purpose

2. To outline how we will fulfil our duty to protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights, enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

## Scope

3. The policy applies to adults, young people and children. All staff, managers, directors, board members and volunteers as well as contractors, sub-contractors and agents have a duty to act on any concerns of abuse or neglect.

We will comply with legal, regulatory and best practice standards in the sector.

## **Policy**

4. To achieve this we will :

- raise awareness about the abuse and/or neglect of children, young people and adults at risk amongst staff
- develop a culture that does not tolerate such abuse and which encourages people to raise concerns
- prevent abuse from happening wherever possible
- respond promptly and proportionately where abuse does happen, to report the abuse continuing and to ensure the person harmed receives effective support
- train staff to recognise the signs of abuse and/or neglect and report suspected or actual crimes to the police
- undertake DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service – previously CRB) checks for staff and contractors working directly with residents
- provide clear guidelines and procedures for staff in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities with safeguarding
- treat any abuse by staff as a disciplinary offence
- listen to anyone raising a safeguarding issue and act on their concerns
- conduct risk assessments which include safeguarding risks for each SHA community event
- take a victim centred approach to dealing with reported incidents, working in partnership with relevant agencies

## **Responsibility**

5. The Head of Housing Operations will oversee the implementation of this policy and related procedures, as appropriate.

The board will ensure the corporate risk map includes safeguarding.

## **Monitoring, Review & Evaluation**

6. Board reports will provide updates on safeguarding incidents and the effectiveness of policy and procedures where appropriate.

**Safeguarding is linked to our Domestic Abuse policy.**

**The policy will be reviewed every three years.**