

Safeguarding children policy

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Policy statement

The government guidance “Working together to safeguard children 2018” and the Children’s Act 2004 sets out clearly the duties on settle to safeguard and promote the welfare of children living in our homes. Occasionally this may extend to working with individuals and families on an ongoing basis. All colleagues, contractors and board members are responsible for the safety and welfare of children living in our homes who may be at risk. All colleagues, board members, contractors and other agents acting on behalf of settle are responsible for reporting suspected cases of abuse neglect or risk as soon as they identify a concern. If child protection meetings take place relevant colleagues are expected to attend to address any impact the families housing may be having on the welfare of the child.

settle will have Director level representation on the local safeguarding board as well as several Designated Safeguarding Officers to support colleagues, co-ordinate and monitor safeguarding casework and ensure the right action is taken in a timely manner in accordance with legislation. We will continue to embed the safeguarding of our customers across the organisation, improve our insight and our approach particularly in services where we would expect to see more reports being made.

Key principles

- Ensure leadership responsibility at a senior level for our safeguarding arrangements including representation on the Local Safeguarding Board.
- Work together with the lead agencies, and other statutory and voluntary agencies to protect the wellbeing of children
- To meet our obligations as set out in the government guidance “Working together to safeguard children 2018”
- Prioritise reports of safeguarding concerns about children and young people to initiate effective support as soon as a need is identified
- A child centred approach to safeguarding, promoting the welfare of every child listening to children considering their wishes and feelings, being clear about our position regarding confidentiality when a child is at risk
- Apply learning from casework and implement changes as identified in a timely manner

Objectives

Meet our legal obligations set out in the Children’s Act 2004 and Working together to safeguard children guidance 2018

- Prioritise, manage and report safeguarding issues relating to children living in our homes who may be at risk of abuse neglect or harm
- Prevent the obstruction (wilful or unintentional) to the healthy development and wellbeing of children living in our homes

- Take prompt action to ensure children living in our homes have safe and effective care and achieve the best outcomes in life
- Ensure all colleagues, board members, contractors and other agents that act on behalf of settle are aware of this policy and have the relevant training and knowledge and awareness to identify and report safeguarding concerns
- Have regard for other key legislation such as the Equality Act 2010 and the Care Act 2014

Outcomes

- Active senior representation on the local safeguarding board
- All settle leaders taking responsibility for ensuring their teams understand their legal and moral duties and are confident to report concerns
- Embed safeguarding into the culture and working practices at settle
- Identify and access appropriate support for children and young people with a focus on the child when making decisions about their lives. Work in partnership with them and their families
- Children of families living in settle accommodation are able to thrive in a safe environment free from the risk of abuse neglect or harm. They can grow into healthy adults and when in difficulty are able to rely on the support of colleagues within settle to help them achieve this
- Upskill colleagues
- Take appropriate action against perpetrators of abuse where possible to do so
- Evidence of ownership of safeguarding concerns by front line staff
- Evidence of learning and improvement from incidents and case reviews
- Recruitment processes follow the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) regulations and checks for specific roles that work closely with children are carried out

Performance indicators

- 100% of colleagues will have regular training at the appropriate level for their role
- Increased number of potential concerns being raised
- Improved customer insight
- All reports and the outcomes of safeguarding will be carefully monitored and reviewed by the Health and Safety Wellbeing Board where the risk to the child is deemed serious Case reviews will be undertaken by a Designated Safeguarding Officer where its identified service delivery has failed to highlight or act on a safeguarding issue
- Colleagues handling of cases will be revised by their line manager and missed opportunities or failures will be acted on in performance management meetings and reported to the Health and Safety Wellbeing Board
- Feedback from customers and other agencies will be factored into any changes to our approach

Key legislation

Children's Act 1989- 2004

Working together to safeguard children 2018

Equality Act 2010

Homeless Reduction Act 2017

GDPR Regulation 2018

Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)

ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Review

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years or when there is a business need or change in legislation.