

Safeguarding adults policy

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Other related documents	settle's safeguarding toolkit Recruitment policy and procedures Common Housing Allocations Policy Arrears Policy ASB Policy Domestic Abuse Policy Staff code of Conduct Whistleblowing policy Disciplinary Procedure Vulnerable Customers Policy

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Policy statement

The Care Act 2014 set out a clear legal framework for local authorities and imposes duties on them to work with housing providers to safeguard adults who have a care and support need. Housing Providers are required to have clear policies and procedures and colleagues must be trained to recognise the signs of abuse or neglect. All colleagues, contractors and board members are responsible for the safety and welfare of vulnerable adults living in our homes who may be at risk. All colleagues, board members, contractors and other agents acting on behalf of settle are also responsible for reporting suspected cases of abuse neglect or risk as soon as they identify a concern.

settle will have Director level representation on the local safeguarding board. We have several trained Designated Safeguarding Officers within the business to support staff, coordinate and monitor safeguarding casework and ensure the right action is taken in line with legislation to achieve the right outcome in a timely manner. 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.
- Prioritise reports of safeguarding concerns about vulnerable adults to enable our customers to live a life free from abuse and risk of harm
- Provide assistance to vulnerable adults experiencing neglect or self-neglect to help with access to the relevant care and support in accordance with their needs
- Manage adult safeguarding using the 6 key principles set out in the Care Act as below
- Apply learning from casework and reviews to implement changes as identified in a timely manner.

Objectives

- To meet our legal obligations as set out in The Care Act 2014
- Prevent, protect, manage and report safeguarding issues relating to vulnerable adults living in our homes who may be at risk of abuse neglect or harm.
- Take prompt action to ensure vulnerable adults living in our homes have safe and effective care and can 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 Mental Capacity Act 2005

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
- Mitigate the risk of abuse, harm and neglect to vulnerable adults living in settle accommodation
- Ensure vulnerable adults have the opportunity to thrive in a safe environment
- Identify and access care and support for our customers as needed
- Take appropriate action against perpetrators of abuse where possible to do so
- Upskill colleagues
- 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 outcomes of safeguarding will be carefully monitored and reviewed if deemed a serious risk to the customer or the business at the Health and Safety Board meeting.
- All case reviews will be undertaken by Designated Safeguarding Officers where its identified service delivery has failed to prevent a safeguarding issue.
- Colleague handling of cases will be reviewed 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

Care Act 2014

Equality Act 2010

Mental Capacity 2005

Human Rights Act 1998

Safeguarding vulnerable groups Act 2006 – disclosure and barring service (DBS)

Sexual Offences Act 2003

Homeless Reduction Act 2017

GDPR regulation 2018

ASB Crime and Policing Act 2014
Female Genital Mutilations Act 2015

Review

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