

Statement of Intent

The Saffron Group (referred to hereafter as 'Saffron') is committed to working with statutory agencies to ensure the safety and wellbeing of our tenants. Safeguarding is an important part of this commitment and the responsibility that Saffron meets obligations to tenants is delegated to the Executive Director of Operations.

Definitions

Safeguarding duties apply to:

- An individual who is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect – including self-neglect
- An individual who is in need for care and support
- As a result of those care and support needs the individual is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect

Abuse and neglect:

- are forms of maltreatment of a vulnerable adult. An individual or individuals may abuse or neglect a vulnerable adult by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. The main categories of abuse are recognized as being; physical, emotional/psychological, sexual, financial, neglect acts of omission, discriminatory, institutional, Self-neglect & hoarding. Definitions of what constitutes these types of abuse are contained within Saffron's separate Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults procedures.

For the purpose of this policy, the definition of a vulnerable adult is: Any person over 18 whom: Is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental, physical or learning disability, age or illness who: Is or may be unable to take care of themselves against significant harm or serious exploitation.

1. Purpose

This policy is designed to set out Saffron's position and approach to Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults.

2. Policy Statement

- 2.1 All those who come into contact with vulnerable adults and families in their work (including those who do not have a specific vulnerable adults protection role) have a

SAFEGAURDING VULNERBALE ADULTS POLICY

duty to safeguard the welfare of vulnerable adults (the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006).

- 2.2 It is the responsibility of statutory agencies to investigate vulnerable adult abuse. It is not Saffron's role to undertake investigation itself or to decide if abuse or neglect is occurring, although all staff have a responsibility to ensure that concerns or allegations are acted on and responded to as set out in Saffron's procedures.

3. Policy

- 3.1 Saffron will have in place Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults procedures which provide details of the processes that must be followed by staff in the case of actual or suspected adult abuse, give information to staff about how to recognise this and identify what factors should be taken into consideration when addressing such case.
- 3.2 Saffron will ensure that all front line staff and managers receive training on Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults. Saffron will ensure that staff are aware of their responsibilities in terms of Safeguarding and how to react to any concerns they may have.
- 3.3 Saffron will appoint a senior member of staff to act as a Safeguarding Adults Lead who will take the lead on vulnerable adult safeguarding issues and support staff members in following its vulnerable adults safeguarding procedures.
- 3.4 The SAL will ensure that referrals are made to local authorities Adult Services MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub) Team (or their equivalent) as appropriate and will ensure that information is shared and effective working takes place with key partners to ensure that the aim of safeguarding vulnerable adults the first priority. They (MASH) will decide how the allegation or suspicion should be investigated using their local procedures.

4. Information Sharing

- 4.1 When abuse is disclosed or suspected, information sharing will be restricted to those who need to receive this information, and Saffron will meet the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018. We recognise however the importance of inter-agency co-operation in order to safeguard vulnerable adults and in cases where we hold information about families or individuals that is required by local authorities or other organizations in order for them to carry out their statutory Vulnerable Adults Safeguarding responsibilities, this information will be shared with those authorities, in accordance with our duty to assist under the No Secrets Act. Where possible the consent of the third party will be obtained before any information is shared; if consent is not possible or desirable the information may be shared in the public interest for the protection of the vulnerable adult concerned
- 4.2 Considerations of confidentiality which may otherwise apply should not override the right of the vulnerable adult to be protected from harm. No absolute guarantees of

SAFEGAURDING VULNERBALE ADULTS POLICY

confidentiality can therefore be given or promises made that information will not be shared with relevant agencies. Saffron will on all occasions reserve the right to report vulnerable adult safeguarding issues.

5. Monitoring

- 5.1 The Manager designated 'Safeguarding Adults Lead' will ensure that secure records are kept of all alleged cases of abuse or neglect. This record will be reviewed regularly, examining how cases were managed, and actions required. These actions may include changes that need to be made to policy, training, supervision, case work conduct and responses to allegations.
6. Saffron recognises that there may be circumstances where it will need and/or wish to take different or alternative action to that outlined in this policy and it reserves the right to do so.

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