
STATEMENT OF INTENT

The Saffron Group (referred to hereafter as 'Saffron'.) recognises the rights of children to protection from abuse and neglect and is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children in the communities in which we work. We recognise the important role staff can play in their day to day activities; from identifying child welfare issues to working with the local authority and other agencies to enable them to fulfil their duties as referred to within the Regulator of Social Housing (RSH) Consumer Standards (specifically the Tenancy Standard) asset out in the Regulatory Framework for Social Housing Government guidance makes it clear that Safeguarding Children is a shared responsibility, and that it relies upon effective joint working between agencies and professionals.

Safeguarding is an important part of Saffrons safeguarding commitment and the responsibility that Saffron meets obligations to tenants is delegated to the Executive Director of Operations

DEFINITIONS

Abuse and neglect, as defined in 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', are forms of maltreatment of a child. An individual or individuals may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. The main categories of abuse are recognised as being; physical, emotional, sexual and neglect. Definitions of what constitutes these types of abuse are contained within Saffron's separate Safeguarding Children procedures

For the purpose of this policy, the definition of a child is; a young child or young person under the age of 18.

1. PURPOSE

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

2. POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 All those who come into contact with children and families in their work (including those who do not have a specific child protection role) have a duty to safeguard the welfare of children (the Children Act 1989 and 2004 and the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006).
- 2.2 It is the responsibility of statutory agencies to investigate child 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.

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3. POLICY

- 3.1 Saffron will have in place Safeguarding Children procedures which providedetails of the processes that must be followed by staff in the case of actual or suspected child 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 Children. Saffron will ensure that staff are aware of their responsibilities in terms of Safeguarding and how to react to any concern they may have.
- 3.3 Saffron will appoint a senior member of staff to act as a Safeguarding Children Lead (SCL), who will take the lead on child protection issues and support staff members in following its child protection procedures.
- 3.4 The SCL will ensure that referrals are made to the 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 children is the first priority.

4. INFORMATION SHARING

- 4.1 When abuse is disclosed or suspected, information sharing will be restricted to those who need to receive this information to safeguard the child/children 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 children 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 child protection/Safeguarding responsibilities, this information will be shared with those authorities, in accordance with our duty to assist under Section 27 and 47 of the Children's Act 1989. 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 child concerned.
- 4.2 Considerations of confidentiality which may otherwise apply should not override the right of the child to be protected from harm. No absolute guarantees of 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 child protection/safeguarding issues.

5. MONITORING

- 5.1 The Manager designated 'Safeguarding Children 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

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(these actions may include changes that need to be made to policy, training, supervision, case work conduct and responses to allegations). The data will be kept until there is no legal requirement to retain the record beyond the closure of the case.

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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Board/Committee	Board
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