

Safeguarding Policy

Summary Statement

At Home Group we take Safeguarding concerns very seriously and believe that every person has the right to live in safety. As we deliver our mission to build homes, independence, and aspirations, we recognise that Safeguarding is everyone's business. We are strongly committed to Safeguarding adults, children and young people who are at risk from abuse, harm, and neglect who are unable to protect themselves.

The policy is relevant to all colleagues, agency workers, volunteers, Involved Customers, contractors, and others directly involved with delivering Home Group activities.

Our Safeguarding Policy takes account of best practice and the different laws and regulations for safeguarding adults, children and young people. The policy standards were written using feedback from customers and colleagues and define our approach to safeguarding, including how:

- We put the individual needs, views and wishes of the person at the centre of safeguarding decisions.
- We support and encourage people to live independently and safely by working in a person-centred way.
- We aim to foster a safe and secure environment where customers can feel comfortable to talk about their concerns and feel confident that they will be listened to.
- We raise awareness of safeguarding so that people can help keep themselves and others safe from abuse, harm and neglect.
- We recognise the importance of safeguarding through effective leadership and make safe recruitment decisions.
- We train and support colleagues so they have the skills to effectively safeguard people.
- We work in partnership (and share incidents) with the local authority, other partners and anyone else who has a role in preventing or reducing the risk of abuse, harm or neglect. We do this in line with our Information Governance Policy.
- We promote customer safety and manage associated risks with a collaborative, enquiring and thorough approach.
- We take a proportionate and least intrusive response to presenting risks and act swiftly upon safeguarding concerns.

- We are committed to providing safe and properly maintained homes. We have robust standards of practice in place to ensure the physical condition of the properties are kept in a good state of repair and take prompt action to housing related issues that can increase safeguarding risks.
- We recognise and respond to concerns of abuse, harm or neglect in a timely manner, and understand the potential links between housing related matters such as Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and safeguarding.
- We manage allegations made against colleagues or volunteers and promote our Confidential Reporting (Whistleblowing) policy and procedures.
- We challenge safeguarding decisions we may not agree with.
- We report and record safeguarding concerns in a timely manner and comply with regulatory requirements as required (for example, OFSTED and the Care Quality Commission)
- We review and learn from safeguarding incidents and consult with customers and colleagues across the organisation about changes and improvements to safeguarding policy, procedures, and practices.

The full Safeguarding Policy can be obtained from the Policy Team by emailing policy@homegroup.org.uk.