

Policy title	Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults
Summary	Mosscare St Vincent's Housing Group approach to safeguarding of adults and children at risk of harm, abuse or neglect
Scope	All staff, contractors and volunteers
Author & Job Role	Shadha Mahmood-Qureshi, Supported Housing Lead
Directorate	Customers
Document Status	Live
Document Reference	CUS/SH/PO/0.2
Dates:	
Draft	22/11/2021, 23/12/2021, 12/09/2023
Approved	14/09/2023,
Ratified	07/11/2023
Effective from	14/09/2023
Review by	12/09/2026
Impact Assessments:	
Date EIA completed	01/08/2025
Date other IAs completed	
Consultation	Director and Executive

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1 Introduction/Policy Purpose

- 1.1. This policy sets out Mosscaire St Vincent's Housing Group (MSV) approach to safeguarding of adults and children at risk of harm, abuse or neglect who use or are connected to our services.
- 1.2. The aim of the policy is to provide effective guidance for all our staff, contractors and volunteers to be able to identify potential safeguarding issues, and for us to investigate and refer cases where necessary.
- 1.3. We have developed this policy using the guidance from the Department of Health's Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014.
- 1.4. The Care Act 2014 sets out six key principles that underpin all adult safeguarding work:

Empowerment - Presumption of person led decisions and informed consent

Protection - Support and representation for those in greatest need

Prevention - It is better to take action before harm occurs

Proportionality - Proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented

Partnership - Local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse

Accountability - Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding

- 1.5. MSV has a duty to co-operate with local authorities implementing their statutory duties around safeguarding and acknowledges that effective safeguarding is a shared responsibility.

2 Scope

- 2.1 All staff are responsible for compliance with the policy objectives.
- 2.2 MSV will:
 - Work with local authorities and partner agencies to minimise risk and to ensure that where safeguarding concerns are identified, they are swiftly and appropriately raised, and information is effectively shared
 - Respond promptly and proportionately when it appears that a child, young person or adult at risk may be at risk of abuse or neglect

- Ensure that this policy and procedure are published within MSV so that all staff, contractors and volunteers are made aware of their responsibility, own conduct, and how to respond to any concerns or suspicions they may have

3 Policy Statement

- 3.1 MSV is committed to safeguarding adults and children at risk of abuse or neglect and will ensure that appropriate policies and procedures are in place to safeguard their wellbeing.
- 3.2 It is the responsibility of each person working on behalf of MSV to consider the safety and welfare of the adults and children that they encounter.

4 Definitions

- 4.1 The following definitions will be used in this policy.

Adult at risk	<p>An adult who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Has care and support needs (whether or not the authority is meeting those needs), ii. Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and iii. As a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect or the risk of it
Child or young person	A person who has not yet reached their 18 th birthday
Safeguarding	<p>Protecting people's health, wellbeing and human rights and enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.</p> <p>Safeguarding adults is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting the rights of adults to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect • people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect • people and organisations making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, taking fully into account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. (Person Centred Approach) • recognising that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances and therefore potential risks to their safety or well-being

	<p>Safeguarding children is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • protecting children from maltreatment • preventing impairment of children's health or development • ensuring that children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care • taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes
Abuse of an adult	A violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person who has the power over the life of the dependent individual or an adult in need of support or care who is unable to protect themselves from abuse, self-neglect or neglect because of those needs, regardless of a person's capacity to make decisions.
Abuse of a child	Any action that could cause them significant harm.
Abuse	<p>Can be single or repeated acts, omissions or neglect and includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical • Psychological • Institutional • Abuse Self-Harm and Suicide • Self-neglect • Sexual • Financial • Neglect

5 Key Principles

5.1 We will:

- Ensure that contractors and volunteers working on behalf of MSV are aware of this policy statement
- Provide appropriate supervision and support for staff, creating an environment where staff feel able to raise concerns and feel supported
- Work collaboratively with other agencies to safeguard and protect those who are connected to our service

- We will ensure that recruitment processes follow the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) regulations
- Apply this policy to all adults at risk regardless of age, disability, gender, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation, marriage and civil partner status, pregnancy and maternity
- Follow the Department of Health's six key safeguarding principles when working with adults at risk
- Assume that adults have mental capacity to make informed choices about their own safety and how they live their lives
- Record and refer all concerns, suspicions or allegations of abuse, harm (including female genital mutilation) or neglect where there is consent from the adult at risk, unless there is a public interest consideration; or where there is immediate risk of harm; or where the adult requires urgent medical attention; or where there is a duty of care; or there is clear professional evidence of lack of capacity
- Listen to children and consider their wishes and feelings whilst not promising confidentiality where the child might be at risk

6 Confidentiality and Information Sharing

- 6.1 We understand the importance of ensuring that personal data is always treated fairly, lawfully, and appropriately and that the rights of individuals are upheld. However, we are clear that where an individual's safety is at risk, we are required to report our concerns to the responsible authorities and share information with them.
- 6.2 The sharing of information will be restricted to those who have a demonstrable need to know.

7 Training

- 7.1 MSV will provide regular training for staff throughout the organisation to ensure that they are aware of their role, can identify risk and concerns, raise concerns, and report them to the local authority.
- 7.2 As part of induction training, all relevant staff are required to read and understand this policy to ensure that they are able to identify children, young people and adults at risk who may be at risk and act appropriately.
- 7.3 The People and Talent team will manage the training for all staff, ensuring that it is tailored to the responsibilities associated with each role.

8 Roles & Responsibilities

- 8.1. There is a clear line for work on safeguarding, with designated leads for vulnerable adults and young people, an overall safeguarding lead (Director Independent Living) and an Executive Sponsor (Executive Director for Customers.)
- 8.2. There are a number of Safeguarding Champions across the Group.
- Head of Young person Services Manager is the Champion for Safeguarding Children & Young People Champion (including Young Person sexual exploitation)
 - Supported Housing Lead is the Champion for Safeguarding Adults
- 8.3. The role of the champions is to; keep up to date with policy and legislative updates, undertake audits and partner returns in accordance with procedures, attend MSV safeguarding operational leads meetings and cascade information down to teams, provide advice and guidance on safeguarding issues.
- 8.4. All persons working on behalf of MSV to consider the safety and wellbeing of Adults and Children they encounter.

9 Monitoring, Review & Evaluation

- 9.1 All safeguarding concerns will be logged on MSV's housing management system and will be monitored in the following ways:
- Regular manager review of CAS priority 1 cases and mark with "Managers Review"
 - Satisfaction survey on CAS cases where appropriate
 - 1:1 review meeting with staff
 - Review meetings with partner agencies
 - Regular updates will be provided to Senior Leadership Team and Executive Management Team
 - Annual safeguarding report to Committee or Board
 - Self-assessment for local authorities

10 Regulatory Code and Legal Framework

- 10.1 This policy statement and associated policy guidance documents and procedures comply with the Regulator for Social Housing regulatory standards for registered providers of social housing in England
- 10.2 Legislation and guidance governing registered provider policy and practice includes:
- Care Act 2014
 - Human Rights Act 1998
 - Sexual Offences Act 2003
 - Disability Discrimination Act 2003
 - Mental Capacity Act 2005
 - Mental Health Act 2007
 - Modern Slavery Act 2015
 - No Secrets 2000 (for best practice / examples only as repealed by Care Act 2014)
 - Department of Health's Care and Support Statutory Guidance 2017
 - Children Act 2004
 - Education Act 2002
 - Every Child Matters: Change for Children 2004
 - Working Together to Safeguard Children: A Guide to Inter Agency Working 2023
 - Supported Accommodation (England) Regulations 2023

11 Related Documents

- 11.1. Anti-Social Behaviour Policy
- 11.2. Domestic Abuse Policy
- 11.3. Data Protection Policy
- 11.4. Health & Safety Policy Statement
- 11.5. Professional and Personal Boundaries Policy
- 11.6. Hate Crime & Harassment Policy
- 11.7. Safer Recruitment Policy
- 11.8. Missing from Home Policy
- 11.9. Whistleblowing Policy

12 Version History

Version	Date	Description/Summary	Status	Author
1	12/2018	New MSV safeguarding policy	App/rat	LD/AT
2	25/1/2022	Redraft MSV safeguarding policy	App/rat	AI
3	12/09/2023	Minor amends MSV safeguarding Policy	App/rat	AI
4	14/09/2023	Approved by Exec	App	AI
5	07/11/2023	Ratified by Committee	Rat	AI
6	26/1/2024	Minor amend – job title 8.1, 8.2 legislation update at 10.2 working together guidance	Minor amend	AI
7	01/08/2025	Minor Amend - job roles and names. Additional information around self harm	Minor Amend	AT/SMQ

13 Delivering the Policy/Procedure

13.1 This Policy is supported by a safeguarding Procedure which is to be used by staff and volunteers in delivering this policy.

14 Appendices

15 Appendix 1 – Equality Impact Assessment

Name of Policy: Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults

Date of Assessment / Review: 01/08/2025
 Mahmood-QureshiAsif Iqbal

Author: Adele Travis/Shadha

Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the function?	All service users, customers, staff, Board, Partners and agencies	
Who will be consulted and what types of consultation will be carried out?	Tenant Review Panels and Business / Service Improvement staff	
Could the function have a differential impact on:	What evidence exists to support your analysis?	
	Yes / No	
Racial Groups	No	Policy statement is there to ensure protection for all customers and all protected characteristics.
Gender or gender reassignment	No	As above
Disabled people	No	As above
Age	No	As above
Sexuality	No	As above
Religion or belief	No	As above
Any other protected or vulnerable characteristic including marriage or civil partnerships, pregnancy or maternity?	No	
If the answer is NO to <u>all</u> questions and no differential treatment has been found there is no requirement for a full Equality Impact Assessment. Please go back regularly and review the cycle. If the answer is YES to any of the questions please complete the rest of the form.		
In what areas could the differential identified be considered to have an adverse impact in this function and what solutions will be introduced to overcome these adverse impacts?		

In what areas could the differential identified be considered a positive impact in this function and what strategies will be introduced to safeguard and spread these positive impacts?	
Which Action Plans have these solutions/strategies been transferred into?	

Ratified by: Committee/ Board / Delegated Approval Date: 28/8/2025