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Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse Policy



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Safeguarding and Domestic Abuse Policy

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1. Introduction and background

- 1.1 Colleagues have a key role to play in keeping people safe. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we are well placed to identify people at risk of abuse, or with care and support needs. We are also experienced at working in partnership with others and lawfully sharing information
- 1.2 This policy is for all employees, board members, volunteers or anyone working on behalf of, delivering a service for or representing FCHO.

2. What is the purpose of this Policy?

- 2.1 The policy is to provide effective and consistent support through partnership working to prevent abuse.
- 2.2 To provide an understanding of safeguarding and domestic abuse and how colleagues respond.
- 2.3 To comply with The Regulatory Framework for Social Housing in England, and relevant legislation i.e. The Care Act 2014.
- 2.4 To outline our commitment to ensuring that all children and adults are protected and kept safe from harm whilst engaged in services organised by FCHO.
- 2.5 To support colleagues to recognise and report safeguarding concerns.

3. Policy Details

- 3.1 This policy aims to ensure that FCHO will:
 - Provide sensitive, timely and appropriate responses to customers and colleagues;
 - Provide a range of services that maintain the safety and security of customers;
 - Recognise the different access needs of diverse communities and respond positively to the sensitive personal needs and issues facing customers;
 - Provide responsive and timely support to FCHO tenants through Neighbourhoods and the Independent Living Service to enable them to sustain their tenancies;
 - Provide advice on the housing options that are available to both the victims and the perpetrators of domestic abuse. Set out the consequences of action as to how they may affect these options;
 - Provide timely intervention to prevent and reduce homelessness in relation to domestic abuse;
 - Use a partnership approach to dealing with safeguarding and domestic abuse, by working with local, regional and national agencies in order to achieve a person centre approach (for example Oldham Refuge, Women's Aid, Mash, Vulnerable Adult Services and the Forced Marriage Unit);
 - Provide our colleagues with training and support to enable them to take appropriate action in relation to this policy and the needs and circumstances of individual customers;
 - Contribute through our service provision and participation, in all protection arrangements (for example MARAC and MASH);

- Refer adult 'victims' of Familial Abuse to the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) through the safeguarding route where information suggest this for example by children towards their parents or older siblings;
- Take positive action to gain possession of FCHO tenancies where the perpetrator is left in the property and in under-occupying;
- Comply with The Regulatory Framework for Social Housing in England, and relevant legislation i.e. The Care Act 2014;
- Will safeguard adults at risk of abuse or neglect including FCHO customer(s); and
- Will safeguard children and make sure staff at FCHO have regular training on this

4. Monitoring and implementation

- 4.1 FCHO will regularly monitor and review our services to ensure continuous improvement with regard to dealing with safeguarding and domestic abuse. This information will be used to inform further service and policy development, training and raising awareness of safeguarding and domestic abuse.
- 4.2 FCHO provides the quarterly statutory homelessness outcomes to Oldham Council on the number of homeless prevention and homeless assessment cases where the customer has cited domestic abuse as being the primary reason for them seeking assistance.
- 4.3 Key performance indicators for safeguarding are recorded on a monthly basis including number of safeguarding referrals received and number of safeguarding referrals actioned by MASH.

5. Legislative or other Guidelines

- 5.1 FCHO will ensure that its approach to working with customers at risk of safeguarding and victims of domestic abuse is in line with the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) regulatory framework.
- 5.2 FCHO will ensure this policy is compatible with existing legislation and guidance including but not limited to:
 - Housing Act 1985 as amended 1996
 - Family Law Act 1996
 - Children Act 1989
 - Children Act 2004
 - Crime and Disorder Act 1998
 - Anti-social Behaviour Act 2003
 - Human Rights Act 1998
 - Protection from Harassment Act 1997
 - Domestic Abuse, Crime and Victim Act 2004
 - Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007
 - Equality Act 2010
 - Data Protection Act 1998
 - Section 11 of the Children Act 2004
 - Working together to Safeguard Children 2015
 - The Care Act 2014
 - Care and Support Statutory Guidance DoH 2015
 - Disclosure and Barring Service Vetting and Barring Scheme

6. Links to other FCHO Policies

- Code of Conduct
- Data Protection Policy
- Recruitment Policy

7. Links to FCHO Strategic Plan

Excellent Landlord:

- Improve customer services
- Develop options that allow us to meet greater housing need

Create Thriving Communities:

- Develop successful services that provide effective partnerships and joint evaluation with health, support and criminal justice services

APPROVAL AND REVIEW	
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Consultation	Kelly Webb – Assistant Director for Health and Housing Needs
Equality Analysis	
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