



Safeguarding Policy

March 2018

1. Introduction

East Kent Housing (EKH) is committed to supporting and working in partnership with the four East Kent Councils of Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet and other partner agencies. EKH believes that it is always unacceptable for a child or vulnerable adult to experience abuse of any kind.

EKH is committed to ensuring that, in so far as it is in our power to do so, children and adults (visiting or resident in the properties we manage) are safe and protected from all forms of abuse, and that any concerns about wellbeing and safety are referred to the relevant services.

The policy covers a broad definition of safeguarding and applies to both adults and children and all areas of the business - as such the policy is supported by procedures to support the implementation of the policy.

It is important to note that the organisation has statutory obligations to report safeguarding issues to relevant authorities relating to incidents or suspected incidents of abuse or neglect affecting either children or adults who are deemed as 'having care and support needs' and may be 'at risk' of harm.

The framework for reporting and investigating under these requirements is detailed in Multi-Agency Safeguarding Guidance which is issued by either the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Children Board or the Kent and Medway Adult Safeguarding Board.

2. Legislation and Guidance

The EKH Safeguarding Children and Adults Policy links to a wide range of legislative requirements, guidance and good practice including:

- The Children Acts (1989 and 2004)
- Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
- The Care Act 2014

Full details of the relevant Statutory Framework for Safeguarding Children are set out within Section 1 of the Kent & Medway Safeguarding Children Procedures and can be accessed here.

[Kent and Medway Safeguarding Children Procedures](#)

Full details of the relevant Statutory Framework for Adult Safeguarding are set out within the Adult Safeguarding Policy of the Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults Board.

[Kent & Medway Adult Safeguarding Policy](#)

3. The Aims and Purpose of this Policy

EKH can play a crucial part in safeguarding both children and adults, both on the frontline and at a strategic level.

The purpose of this document is to enable EKH to demonstrate its commitment to keeping safe vulnerable adults and children with whom it works or comes into contact with. It also aims to ensure that staff are aware of our roles and responsibilities as set out within this Policy which formalises and builds on our corporate values and principles.

It is important to have policies and procedures in place:

- To provide protection for children and vulnerable adults who visit, are resident in or are receiving EKH services.
- To provide clear guidance to Board Members, staff and contractors on the procedures that they should adopt in the event that they suspect a child or vulnerable adult may be experiencing, or be at risk of harm.
- To ensure that recruitment processes require full checks of suitability to work with children and vulnerable adults where appropriate.
- To ensure that any allegation or suspicion of abuse is dealt with swiftly and appropriately and that the person(s) experiencing abuse is supported.
- To promote good practice and work in a way that can prevent harm, abuse and coercion occurring.

In order to help achieve this, the policy seeks to set out our approach which is to promote an approach where we *Make Safeguarding Personal*, this approach is set out within the Departments of Health's Care and Support Statutory Guidance, as revised in 2017.

It also reflects the *Working together to safeguard children* and means the approach:-

- is person-led
- is outcome focused
- engages the person and enhances involvement, choice and control
- improves quality of life, wellbeing and safety
- recognises that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility

This policy sets out our approach to not just formal safeguarding, but across the whole range of our roles and responsibilities and how we will promote ownership of this agenda within EKH.

Our approach is set out within this policy and whilst in many areas it will cover work and approaches that are already integral to the organisation, for other areas they will be new additional principles and approaches which together will form our overall approach.

In order to help structure our approach we have adopted the framework as set out within the *Making Safeguarding Personal* work developed by the Local Government Association and the Association of Directors of Adult Social Care¹.

¹ Making Safeguarding Personal – What might 'good' look like for those working in the housing sector?, 2017, <https://www.local.gov.uk/making-safeguarding-personal-what-might-good-look-those-working-housing-sector>

This approach uses the following steps to help formulate the approach:-

Leading Making Safeguarding Personal

Step 1: Evidence strong housing leadership of Making Safeguarding Personal

Establishing and developing Making Safeguarding Personal as a core objective within the commissioning and provision of housing services we provide, recognising it as core business.

Step 2: Promote and model the culture shift required for Making Safeguarding Personal

The culture and values of housing organisations are clear and transparent. They are reflected consistently in housing strategies and policies and support housing staff in delivering on expectations set out in guidance and training.

Step 3: Define core principles for strategy and practice

The six statutory safeguarding principles defined as core to Making Safeguarding Personal and there is an emphasis on wellbeing alongside safety. These principles are made clear to all housing staff as well as contractors (such as for repairs, buildings management and gas services). In addition to which we will work with our client Councils to develop an approach that ensures that their housing stock is maintained.

Supporting and developing the workforce

Step 4: Promote and support housing workplace and workforce development

Deliver and seek assurance on baseline standards that can contribute to Making Safeguarding Personal (including in respect of staff: recruitment, supervision, induction and development). Ensure that workplace values support staff in this. Make sure that there is a range of support and information for staff.

Step 5: Make sure that staff are aware of and respond to the requirements of the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) (2005)

Recognise its significance as empowering legislation that supports Making Safeguarding Personal.

Early intervention, prevention and engaging with people:

Step 6: Ensure there is a clear focus on prevention and early intervention

The Making Safeguarding Personal approach applies in prevention as well as to responses to abuse and neglect. Prevention and early intervention requires empowering both staff (housing staff and contractors) and people living in communities to recognise the potential for abuse or neglect and to raise concerns.

Step 7: Engaging with and including people who use services

So that housing services are influenced by the people who use them, both in the way in which they are delivered and at a strategic and policy level.⁴ Support responds to the issues that people have themselves identified. Engagement supports people's resilience.

Engaging across organisations in Making Safeguarding Personal

Step 8: Engage with the range of partners to support gaining a full understanding of the individual and their context; working together to achieve the outcomes people want.

This policy will consider each area in turn and will set out our approach to how we will look to develop services.

4. Principles of Safeguarding

To inform this we will apply the six core safeguarding principles that are set out within the Care Act which are:²

- **Empowerment** - *People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.*
- **Prevention** - *It is better to take action before harm occurs.*
- **Proportionality** - *The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.*
- **Protection** - *Support and representation for those in greatest need.*
- **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.*

5. Our Approach to Safeguarding

This section sets out the steps and work that EKH will take in order to develop our approach to *Making Safeguarding Personal*.

LEADING MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL

Step 1: Evidence strong housing leadership of Making Safeguarding Personal

- Be clear about statutory responsibilities in respect of safeguarding and through this policy and its promotion provide access to information on policies, procedures roles and responsibilities.
- Engage as appropriate with local safeguarding boards and look to develop and strengthen partnerships in order to deliver the approach.
- To review on an annual basis how we are meeting our legal responsibilities in respect of safeguarding. This is to be achieved through use of a self-assessment tool that will consider both adult and children's safeguarding.
- Through monthly Team Talks, One to Ones, Team Meetings and other opportunities to actively champion and raise the profile of the roles and responsibilities of safeguarding as part of our core business.
- Establishing an internal safeguarding group to help promote good practice and review our progress in working to continue to develop our approach to safeguarding.

² Care and Support Statutory Guidance (October 2014, updated 2016), Department of Health

Step 2: Promote and model the culture shift required for Making Safeguarding Personal

- Continue to develop a culture of dignity and respect those values and listens and responds to people, which will be achieved through an extended approach to the training and development of staff to include not only safeguarding directly but also wider social and related issues including mental health. We will also improve the way in which we collect and maintain information on households to help us improve the service and responses we provide.
- That basic safeguarding training will be a mandatory requirement on an annual basis whilst more specialist areas will be covered on a bi-annual basis.
- To listen to the people affected when things go wrong and to learn from this. We will achieve this by continuing to develop our responses to complaints and we will improve the manner in which we review and learn.
- To review and implement an agreed plan to ensure suitable and adequate training and learning opportunities that reflects our roles and responsibilities.

Step 3: Define core principles for strategy and practice

- Work with our client Councils to ensure that commissioning frameworks, policies and procedures are underpinned with the six statutory safeguarding principles. This will include integrating the core principles into commissioning of third parties such as contractors for repairs, gas servicing and building management.
- To provide support and training to those commissioning and then managing these arrangements into practice.
- To be clear that safeguarding must promote wellbeing alongside safety and that we support person-centred and positive approaches to working with risk.
- To provide the opportunity for people to participate in shaping safeguarding support and that they are asked about what they want to happen when there is a safeguarding concern.
- We will promote and provide information and advice including rights of people to advocacy support.
- We will work with the client Councils to ensure that their housing stock meets the Decent Homes Standard, and that the housing stock is maintained in accordance with the agreed standards and that we work with them to implement health and safety compliance for areas including gas and fire safety.

SUPPORTING AND DEVELOPING THE WORKFORCE

Step 4: Promote and support housing workplace and workforce development

- We will maintain a common and robust approach to the recruitment and retention of our staff with reference to the need to ensure this approach set out within our policies and advice on the recruitment, supervision, induction and staff development.
- We will consider safeguarding within our competency framework and will ensure that the induction framework reflects the need for safeguarding training and awareness.

- Ensure that suitable recruitment and retention policies and procedures are considered as part of contract monitoring.
- Establishing Making Safeguarding Personal as integral to all safeguarding training.
- Maintain a training matrix that allows us to ensure that staff training needs are monitored and reviewed to ensure we keep up to date and current.
- Provide guidance to staff who work with vulnerable people, families and children to avoid placing themselves in positions that may cause children or parents to feel uncomfortable and which could lead to questions and/or false accusations of abuse. This would include not meeting with customers outside of work, unnecessary physical contact with children.
- We will work to ensure that the contractors and sub-contractors that we work with have an effective safeguarding policy in place or, where not that they are willing to work in accordance with our policy. This would include working with our client Councils to ensure that their contracts have clear and specific requirements in relation to safeguarding.
- We will provide training and information to staff 'Mate Crime' and Domestic Abuse including guidance on referring to the relevant agencies where there may be concerns.
- Ensuring that our frontline staff have a clear framework within which to achieve the balance between wellbeing and safety, and to support this with outcome focused working and linking training to strategic outcomes.
- Where we are dealing with allegations of ASB we will use a structured risk assessment to help us determine who the victim may be and then to make the relevant referrals.
- We will clearly signpost to all staff through policies, training and through our intranet site to either the Kent Safeguarding Children Board or the Kent & Medway Safeguarding Adults Board, where they can access detailed information on the safeguarding.

Step 5: Make sure that staff are aware of and respond to the requirements of the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) (2005)

- Where people who lack capacity are identified we will provide staff with the training and information to help them understand the need for supported decision making and sign post individuals to the right people to do this.
- To ensure we focus on an outcome based approach by talking to people about the outcomes they want to achieve.

EARLY INTERVENTION, PREVENTION AND ENGAGING WITH PEOPLE:

Step 6: Ensure there is a clear focus on prevention and early intervention

- Through training, advice and support we will develop staff to recognise situations where there is potential for abuse/neglect and will empower them to report and act on concerns.
- We will include and ask people what they want to happen as appropriate when there is a safeguarding concern, and where we can we will ask about the outcomes they want when safeguarding issues arise.

Step 7: Engaging with and including people who use services

- We will involve and engage people and communities so that they are informed, empowered and connected to social networks in the wider community. We will do this by the promotion and signposting to groups, initiatives and other support, which will help them to resolve and prevent abuse and neglect in their own lives, and build their resilience.
- We will work with our client Councils and others to engage and include residents so that services and strategies are influenced by the people who use them.
- Make easily available information on our complaints process and guidance to residents and their carer and families to help them to raise concerns.
- We will provide information to residents their carers and staff on SCAMS and prevention, which include tips on how to spot the signs of someone who may be responding to mass marketing or doorstep scams.
- We will work with our Client Councils who allocate housing to ensure that people who are risk should not be allocated tenancies in areas, or properties, where it could reasonably be predicted that they may be subject to antisocial behaviour or abuse.
- We will undertake structured Risk Assessments to help us review situations where households and individuals may be at risk and this will include when we have reports of anti-social behaviour, prior to granting permission for an individual to be given permission to reside with a vulnerable or potentially vulnerable tenant and we will make the relevant referrals to statutory agencies.
- We will as appropriate make unannounced visits where we may have concerns for households and individuals and make the relevant referrals where we identified concerns.

ENGAGING ACROSS ORGANISATIONS IN MAKING SAFEGUARDING PERSONAL

Step 8: Engage with the range of partners to support gaining a full understanding of the individual and their context; working together to achieve the outcomes people want.

- We will provide training and information to staff to provide them with the knowledge and skills to allow them to engage with partners. We will achieve this through the training and development work already outlined along with the attendance and engagement with formal partners.
- To have in place staff trained and supported to develop specialist knowledge and understanding to work effectively with partners through our Sustainment Team to lead on the identification and support for vulnerable households.
- We will work with local Community Safety Units by sharing information, attending meetings and assisting with their work.
- Work collaboratively with lead agencies to understand the often complex factors that contribute to these issues.

EKH acknowledges that it has a critical part in safeguarding children and adults, both on the frontline and at a strategic level. Our is intend to help embed, promote and develop our approach to safeguarding both directly well as through a range of wider objectives which would include the promoting of health and wellbeing, to protecting children and adults from neglect and abuse.

5. Types and Patterns of Abuse

Abuse and neglect can take many forms and every case should always be considered on its own merit with due consideration given to individual circumstances. The following categories of abuse are not mutually exclusive and person may be subject to more than one type of abuse at the same time, whatever the setting.

It is important to recognise that some people may reveal abuse themselves by talking about or drawing attention to physical signs or displaying certain actions/gestures. This may be their only means of communication. It is important to be alert to these signs and to consider what they might mean.

Abuse or neglect may be deliberate, or the result of negligence or ignorance. Unintentional abuse or neglect may occur owing to life pressures or as a result of challenging behaviour which is not being properly addressed. It is the intent of the abuse or neglect which is therefore likely to inform the type of response.

Abuse can happen anywhere: for example, in someone's home, in a public place, in hospital, in a care home or in a college. It can happen when someone lives alone or with others. It is important to understand the circumstances of abuse, including the wider context such as whether others may be at risk of abuse, whether others have witnessed abuse, the role of family members and paid staff or professionals.

Further information about indicators of abuse under each of these main headings can be found in the online guidance provided by the Kent & Medway Safeguarding Children's Board and the Kent and Medway Adult Safeguarding Board Guidance Section.

Physical abuse

- a) hitting, slapping, scratching
- b) pushing or rough handling
- c) assault and battery
- d) restraining without justifiable reasons
- e) inappropriate and unauthorised use of medication
- f) using medication as a chemical form of restraint
- g) inappropriate sanctions including deprivation of food, clothing, warmth and health care needs
- h) female genital mutilation

Sexual abuse

- a) sexual activity which an adult client cannot or has not consented to or has been pressured into
- b) sexual activity which takes place when the adult client is unaware of the consequences or risks involved
- c) rape or attempted rape
- d) sexual assault or harassment
- e) Non-contact abuse e.g. voyeurism, pornography

Psychological abuse

- a) Emotional abuse.
- b) Verbal abuse.
- c) Humiliation and ridicule.
- d) Threats of punishment, abandonment, intimidation or exclusion from services.
- e) Isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.
- f) Deliberate denial of religious or cultural needs
- g) Forced marriage
- h) Failure to provide access to appropriate social skills and educational development training
- i) Faith abuse

Financial abuse

- a) having money misused or stolen
- b) having property stolen
- c) being defrauded
- d) being put under pressure in relation to money or property
- e) having money or property misused
- f) finance or property mismanagement by a Registered Enduring Power of Attorney or Lasting Power of Attorney for Property & Affairs or a Deputy appointed by the Court of Protection.

Neglect and acts of omission

- a) Ignoring medical or physical care needs
- b) Failure to access care or equipment for functional independence
- c) Failure to give prescribed medication
- d) Failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services
- e) Neglect of accommodation, heating, lighting etc.
- f) Failure to give privacy and dignity
- g) Professional neglect

- h) Failure by a Registered Lasting Power of Attorney for Health and Welfare or a Deputy appointed by The Court of Protection to act in the Best Interests of the Donor of that attorneyship or deputyship, when the Donor has lost capacity to make the relevant decision(s) for themselves.

Self-Neglect

This should necessitate assessment by social and/or health care professionals which should be carried out within the guidance contained within the Mental Capacity Act 2005. For more information please see Social Care Institute for Excellence Self Neglect Report

Additional information on patterns of abuse and the circumstances in which they might take place can be found in appendix I, whilst full details are available at:-

[Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults website](#)

or at the

[Kent Safeguarding Children's Board.](#)

6 Recording and Reporting Procedure

If an allegation or suspicion of abuse is discovered by a member of staff or East Kent Housing representative or contractor, they should inform their designated safeguarding officer or their safeguarding lead as soon as possible.

They should then:-

During the day and in office hours

*Concerned about an **adult**?*

Call 03000 41 61 61 (text relay 18001 03000 41 61 61) or email social.services@kent.gov.uk.

*Concerned about a **child**?*

Call 03000 41 11 11 (text relay 18001 03000 41 11 11) or email social.services@kent.gov.uk.

Out of hours and in an emergency

If you need to contact us outside of normal office hours, for example during the night, call **03000 41 91 91**.

Tell them as much as you can - The more information that can be given about what's happening and where it's happening, the better. They will take every report of abuse seriously and investigate all of them.

Abuse is a breach of someone's rights, and may be a single act or happen repeatedly over a period of time. Abuse may be deliberate, but may also be caused by neglect or ignorance. It can happen anywhere, including their home, a child's school, a residential or nursing home, at hospital, or in a public place. In many cases, abuse is a criminal offence.

If the suspected victim of the abuse is an adult their views are important in determining the course of the safeguarding response and the person raising the concern should discuss this with the adult, unless it is considered not safe to do so or the person is assessed not to have the mental capacity to understand. Where the person is assessed not to have capacity this must be made clear when the referral is made.

Don't assume that someone else will take responsibility. You could help to save someone's life. If you are worried, report it.

You may also be asked to complete the Kent Inter-Agency Referral Form and details should also be recorded on the relevant file the form and information about completing it can be found at [Inter-Agency Referral Form](#).

Full details on how to report abuse can be found [here](#) on the Kent County Council website.

If you think someone is in immediate danger, the best thing to do is call 999 for the emergency services.

7 Managing Responsibilities

All East Kent Housing staff, volunteers and contractors are responsible for understanding, reporting and sharing information with regards to the safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.

All Managers have a particular responsibility to ensure staff understand safeguarding, receive appropriate training and are encouraged and supported through the safeguarding process. EKH's named Safeguarding lead is the Director of Customer Services.

Under the supervision of the Director of Customer Services, all EKH managers are responsible for ensuring that safeguarding standards are adhered to in the delivery of the services they are responsible for. Specific actions for managers will be highlighted in the EKH delivery plan, service plans and appraisals.

All employees, contractors and volunteers are in a position of trust, however; particularly those who support, guide or interact directly with children, young people or vulnerable adults. It is therefore the responsibility of everyone to document and report any concerns about abuse.

6. Confidentially and Information Sharing

Working in partnership with statutory and other relevant agencies is a key element in the identification and investigation of abuse. The wishes of the child, adult or family in relation to what information should be shared, and with whom should be respected where possible.

However, the guidance is clear that organisations and this would include EKH should share information, where there is a concern that a person may be suffering or is at risk of abuse or neglect, their safety must be the over-riding priority. Information must be shared with statutory agencies where there is any indication of abuse.

The Seven Golden Rules for Information Sharing

- i. Remember that the data protection legislation and human rights laws are not barriers to justified information sharing but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about living individuals is shared appropriately;
- ii. Be open and honest with the individual (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so;
- iii. Seek advice from other practitioners if you are in any doubt about sharing the information concerned, without disclosing the identity of the individual where possible;
- iv. Share with informed consent where appropriate and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to share confidential information. You may still share information without consent if, in your judgement, there is good reason to do so, such as where safety may be at risk. You will need to base your judgment on the facts of the case. When you are sharing or requesting personal information from someone, be certain of the basis upon which you are doing so. Where you have consent, be mindful that an individual might not expect information to be shared;
- v. Consider safety and well-being: Base your information sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and wellbeing of the individual and others who may be affected by their actions;
- vi. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure: Ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those people who need to have it, is accurate and up-to-date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely (Practitioners must always follow their organisation's policy on security for handling personal information);
- vii. Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it - whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

Source:- Information sharing: advice for practitioners providing safeguarding services (March 2015).

In order to assist with the effective sharing of information with partners EKH are signatories to the Kent and Medway Information Agreement, this agreement is reviewed as appropriate and we will continue to work as part of these arrangements.

7. Monitoring and Review

We will carry out an annual review of our compliance with this policy, national and local guidance and any changes within legislation.

We will monitor and report on the following to the EKH Safeguarding Group, whilst additional reports and information as appropriate will be provided to the Operational Management Team, Corporate Management Team or other Boards or Sub-Committees at agreed frequency, including the production of an Annual Safeguarding Report:

- The number and type of Safeguarding referrals made to Kent County Council and the number and type accepted as Safeguarding by them.
- The number of Safeguarding & Wellbeing alerts by types of abuse and outcomes from interventions and actions taken.
- The number and job role of staff who have been the subject of a Safeguarding alert, investigation and / or action.
- Training on Safeguarding & Wellbeing scheduled and delivered to staff.
- The effectiveness of our partnership working and strategic links to Safeguarding Boards.
- Any Serious Case Reviews or Domestic Homicide Reviews we've been involved in and the learning and improvements we've made as a result.
- Case studies that demonstrate the impact of our actions and interventions on customers.

7. Equality and diversity

We are committed to respecting diversity in all aspects of our work and we will not tolerate any form of discrimination. We recognise our responsibility to work with other agencies to promote the safety of children and vulnerable adults and to have clear guidelines and procedures with regard to safeguarding.

APPENDIX I

Patterns of Abuse and the Circumstances in which they might take place:

Full details are available at [Kent and Medway Safeguarding Adults website](#) or at the [Kent Safeguarding Children's Board](#), but examples would include:-

Exploitation

- a) opportunistically or premeditated
- b) unfairly manipulating someone (grooming) for profit or personal gain
- c) modern slavery
- d) human trafficking
- e) radicalisation
- f) cuckooing
- g) mate crime

Discrimination

- a) Discrimination demonstrated on any grounds including sex, race, colour, language, culture, religion, politics or sexual orientation
- b) Discrimination that is based on a person's disability or age
- c) Harassment and slurs which are degrading
- d) Hate crime

Organisational abuse

Organisational abuse refers to abusive and poor care and or clinical practices that may develop when an adult is living or staying in a care home, or receiving respite or attending a day care establishment, or are receiving treatment or assessment in a Hospital or other NHS service or in relation to care provided in their own home-and they are potentially vulnerable to abuse and exploitation.

Multiple forms of abuse

An individual or a group of individuals can carry out abuse or neglect. Patterns of harm may emerge and may include multiple forms of abuse, which can occur in an ongoing relationship, or in a service setting, or to several people at any one time. Patterns should be recorded and professionally shared, as repeated instances of poor care may for example, be an indication of organisational abuse. It is very important to look beyond single incidents or breaches in standards, to underlying dynamics and patterns of harm.

Any or all of these types of abuse may be perpetrated as the result of deliberate intent and targeting of adults at risk, negligence or ignorance.

Inappropriate Restraint

Department of Health Guidance: Positive and Proactive Care Reducing the Need for Restrictive Interventions, provides a framework to assist health and social care services to develop a culture where restrictive interventions are only ever used as a last resort and for the shortest possible time.

Domestic Abuse

The definition of domestic abuse applies to males and females and is referred to as: *'a pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.'*

Hate Crime

Hate crimes and incidents can be against the person or property. Hate Crime hurts and it can be motivated by the offender's hatred of people who are seen as being different. An adult or child may be a victim because of race, religion, disability, age, sexuality or gender.

Mate Crime

Mate Crime occurs when someone 'makes friends' with a person and goes on to abuse or exploit that relationship. The founding intention of the relationship, from the point of view of the perpetrator, is likely to be criminal. The relationship is likely to be of some duration and, if unchecked, may lead to a repeat and worsening abuse. Mate crime can happen to anyone but children and adults with learning difficulties are especially vulnerable.

Modern Slavery or Human Trafficking

This is described by the UK National Crime Agency as:

movement of a person from one place to another into conditions of exploitation, using deception, coercion, the abuse of power or the abuse of someone's vulnerability. It is possible to be a victim of trafficking even if your consent has been given to being moved. Although human trafficking often involves an international cross-border element, it is also possible to be a victim of human trafficking within your own country

Forced Marriage

You have the right to choose who you marry, when you marry or if you marry at all. Forced marriage is when physical (e.g. threats, violence or sexual violence), emotional and or psychological pressure (e.g. person is made to feel like they are bringing shame on the family) is brought to bear to make one person marry another.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

FGM is also known as female circumcision, cutting or Sunna. Sometimes, religious, social or cultural reasons are put forward for this happening but it is abuse and a criminal offence, to a woman or child. The term covers all harmful procedures to the female genitalia for non-medical purposes.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

This is a form of child abuse which involves receiving something in exchange for sexual activity.

Online Safeguarding:

Online Safeguarding is not just an IT issue; it is about safeguarding young people and adults in the digital world as part of our safeguarding responsibilities. The focus should be on building resilience to online risk in order for people to feel safe and confident using online services.