



Arawak Walton Housing Association
Safeguarding Adults Policy 2022

Approved by	Board of Management
Date of Approval	16 th November 2022
Date issued to staff	25 th November 2022
E&D impact Assessed	Yes
Date of Next Review	2025
Policy Ownership	Housing Services Manager
Strategic Bridges	Wider role in the community
Legal Review	Yes
Version	1.0
Revision details	
Statement of Values	<p>We value people</p> <p>We rely on teamwork</p> <p>We are open and accountable</p>

1. Policy Statement

- 1.1. Arawak Walton recognise that we have a critical part to play in the safeguarding of our tenants and household members, staff and contractors.
- 1.2. We understand the importance of and are committed to working with partner agencies such as Local Authority Safeguarding Boards and Greater Manchester Police to prevent harm and aid interventions where necessary to protect the long-term wellbeing of all our tenants and members of their household, their family and visitors. The same principles also apply to members of staff and other people working on our behalf.

2. Aims

2.1. Arawak Walton aims to:

- 2.1.1. Escalate safeguarding concerns to the relevant agencies in order to protect adults
- 2.1.2. Use a people centred approach in dealing with safeguarding cases
- 2.1.3. Provide appropriate training to staff to ensure they can deal effectively with safeguarding cases
- 2.1.4. Work in partnership with other agencies and support organisations to help provide support for those at risk
- 2.1.5. Meet all General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and confidentiality requirements, except where there is an overriding safeguarding concern.
- 2.1.6. Promote our Policy and raise awareness
- 2.1.7. Establish monitoring, evaluation and reporting systems and processes

3. Legal Context

- 3.1. This policy has been developed in response to changes in legislation, including the following:
 - 3.1.1. Care Act 2014
 - 3.1.2. Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006
 - 3.1.3. The Human Rights Act 1998
 - 3.1.4. The Mental Capacity Act 2005
 - 3.1.5. Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners 2018
 - 3.1.6. Data Protection Act 2018
 - 3.1.7 The Equality Act 2010
 - 3.1.8 The Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
- 3.2. This policy has been developed using guidance from the department of Health publication 'No Secrets' (2000) and Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014.

3.3. The Care Act 2014 sets out six key principles that underpin all adult safeguarding work:

3.3.1. Empowerment - Personalisation and the presumption of person-led decisions and informed consent.

3.3.2. Prevention - It is better to act before harm occurs.

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

3.3.4. Protection - Support and representation for those in greatest need.

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

3.3.6. Accountability - Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

3.4. Under the latter, housing providers have a duty to co-operate with local authorities implementing their statutory duties around adult safeguarding. This may include: carrying out 'enquiries' into incidents, information sharing, and participating in statutory local Safeguarding Boards. Housing providers are expected to make staff familiar with the principles of safeguarding, train staff to be vigilant, recognise signs of abuse and know what to do if they see those signs.

4. Definition

4.1. Safeguarding means protecting an individual's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about working together to support people to make decisions about the risks they face in their own lives and protecting those who lack the capacity to make these decisions.

5. What is abuse?

5.1. The main categories of abuse are: -

5.1.1. Psychological

5.1.2. Emotional

5.1.3. Physical

5.1.4. Sexual

5.1.5. Financial or material

5.1.6. Neglect and acts of omission

5.1.7. Discriminatory

5.2. Anyone can be the perpetrator of abuse. Abuse can occur in any relationship. An individual, a group, or an organisation may perpetrate abuse.

6. Where does abuse take place?

6.1. Abuse can take place anywhere, including:

6.1.1. In a person's own home

- 6.1.2. In the homes of family and friends
- 6.1.3. In public places/the community
- 6.1.4. Place of work
- 6.1.5. Colleges of further education

6.2. Abuse may result from a deliberate intention to cause harm but may also occur where a provider of a service lacks the necessary knowledge or skills to respond to an individual's needs appropriately.

7. Capacity & Consent

7.1. Arawak Walton recognises that capacity and consent are central themes in safeguarding adult work and that every adult has the right to make their own decisions; a person is assumed to have capacity to do so unless it is proved that they do not.

7.2. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 is underpinned by five key principles:

- 7.2.1. A presumption of capacity: every adult has the right to make his or her own decisions and must be assumed to have capacity to do so unless it is proved otherwise.
- 7.2.2. The right for individuals to be supported to make their own decisions: people must be given all appropriate help before anyone concludes that they cannot make their own decisions.
- 7.2.3. That individuals must retain the right to make what might be seen as eccentric or unwise decisions.
- 7.2.4. Best interests: anything done for or on behalf of people without capacity must be in their best interests.
- 7.2.5. Least restrictive intervention: anything done for or on behalf of people without capacity should be the least restrictive of their basic rights and freedoms.

7.3. Assessment of mental capacity is specific for each individual decision at any particular time. It is not for Arawak Walton to attempt to assess capacity; where there are doubts that a person at risk lacks mental capacity any Safeguarding concern should still result in a referral. A Mental Capacity Assessment can be made by the local Social Care Team.

8. Domestic abuse

8.1. AWAHA use the Government's definition of domestic abuse as outlined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021:

'any incident or 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.'

Domestic abuse is therefore coercive, intimidating behaviour used to establish power and maintain control in the context of a relationship, or a previous relationship.

8.2. Arawak Walton have taken the decision to separate the provisions it puts in place for dealing with ASB, harassment and domestic abuse. Although, they often require a similar response in acting rapidly and appropriately to address the needs of the victims and to bring about successful resolutions. Domestic Abuse now has a distinct response. For more information please refer to the Anti-Social Behaviour and Domestic Abuse Policies.

8.3. In some cases, Arawak Walton will use a combination of actions to protect an individual where there is a safeguarding concern and may rely on the powers available under the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing legislation, or other legal remedies to prevent further abuse from occurring and to protect the victim.

9. Child protection and Adult Safeguarding

9.1. There are times when individual situations cross the boundaries i.e. some instances of physical abuse in Adult Safeguarding may be domestic abuse but where the victim's vulnerability is related to a lack of capacity to make themselves safe; a child may have a parent who may be vulnerable due to their mental capacity and hence there may be concerns about their ability to keep their child safe.

10. Human Trafficking

10.1. Human trafficking is the trade of humans, most commonly for the purposes of sexual slavery, forced labour, or commercial sexual exploitation for the trafficker or others. This policy recognises that such acts may need to be recognised when safeguarding vulnerable adults and training will be offered to staff where appropriate. All suspected cases of Human Trafficking will be referred to the Police.

11. Prevention

11.1. Arawak Walton recognises that people who may be at risk of being abused can often be those with poor health or an enduring long-term health condition, people who may have become increasingly socially isolated and/or who do not feel or have been made to feel that they are not part of their local community. There are three main strands that greatly contribute to the prevention of adult abuse:

- 11.1.1. Staying healthy
- 11.1.2. Social Inclusion
- 11.1.3. Community Safety

11.2. Positive action in the prevention of abuse is essential. Arawak Walton is committed to working across all three strands to provide tenants with the information and support they need to be fit, safe and well, and ensure they have access to the right services and medical care. We work proactively to encourage social inclusion and undertake a variety of initiatives to create cohesion across different groups within our communities. As part of our engagement with diverse communities Arawak Walton uses appropriate and different languages where needed.

11.3. Staff and contractors are encouraged to consider these factors in their dealings with tenants and to make referrals immediately if they have a safeguarding concern.

12. DBS Checking

12.1. The law makes provision for the protection of ex-offenders to help with their rehabilitation however the law also recognises the necessity for employers to consider the background of individuals in order to assess their suitability for certain work and to protect vulnerable groups from risk.

12.2. The association adopted a policy regarding the recruitment of ex-offenders (DBS checks) in 2018 to:

12.2.1. Safeguard the people we work with from abuse and neglect and to protect our customer's property;

12.2.2. Ensure our employees are treated fairly, appropriately and in accordance with the relevant legislation relating to the recruitment of ex-offenders;

12.2.3. Ensure correct handling, use, storage, retention and disposal of Disclosures and Disclosure information;

12.2.4. Ensure that all relevant roles are subject to the correct level of disclosure checks.

12.2.5. Ensure that we have a process of renewing DBS checks regularly where relevant. As a minimum all disclosures will be undertaken every three years. If the association has reasonable grounds, they may reserve the right to request existing employees re-apply for a DBS check if actions or activities give cause for concern. This could include allegations of inappropriate behaviour made by a colleague or member of the public

12.3. The association carries out basic level DBS checks on all employees, and enhanced level checks on all Scheme Managers.

13. Safeguarding Lead Officers

13.1. Tara Horner, Housing Services Manager: 0161 272 6094 / 07734792245
thorner@arawakwalton.com

13.2. Lisa Jowrey, Communal Services Manager: 0161 272 6094 / 07501504154
ljowrey@arawakwalton.com

14. Monitoring & Reporting

14.1. Safeguarding reporting mechanisms are in place and all staff including contractors have access to 'concern cards' which facilitate the reporting of concerns whilst removing the pressure staff may feel if they are unsure about a given situation.

14.2. All Safeguarding reports will be logged and a report will be produced for the Board annually detailing:

- 14.2.1. The number of reports
- 14.2.2. The number of live and closed cases
- 14.2.3. The types of complaints being made
- 14.2.4. The methods used to resolve cases
- 14.2.5. Where appropriate to the case the protected characteristic data

15. Related Policies

- 15.1. Anti-Social Behaviour
- 15.2. Whistle Blowing
- 15.3. Data Protection Policy
- 15.4. Modern Slavery
- 15.5. Equality & Diversity Policy
- 15.6. Domestic Abuse Policy

16. Equality & Diversity

- 16.1 Arawak Walton recognises all forms of discrimination and victimisation including all the protected characteristics pursuant to the Equality Act 2010. In addition, and not only particular to this policy we recognise that isolation and communication difficulties can isolate individuals from society and make them vulnerable to abuse.



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- 1.2. We understand the importance of and are committed to working with partner agencies such as Local Authority Safeguarding Boards and Greater Manchester Police to prevent harm and aid interventions where necessary to protect the long term wellbeing of all our tenants and members of their household, their family and visitors. The same principles also apply to members of staff and other people working on our behalf.

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 - 3.1.2. Working Together to Safeguard Children 2010
 - 3.1.3. The Children Act 1989
 - 3.1.4. The Children Act 2004
 - 3.1.5. The Human Rights Act 1998
 - 3.1.6. Children and Social Work Act 2017
 - 3.1.7. Working together to safeguard children 2018
 - 3.1.8. Information Sharing: Advice for Practitioners 2018
 - 3.1.9. Childcare Act 2006
 - 3.1.10. Childcare (Early Years Provision Free of Charge) (Extended Entitlement) (Amendment) Regulations 2018
 - 3.1.11. The Data Protection Act 2018
 - 3.1.12. The Equality Act 2010

3.1.13. The Domestic Abuse Act 2021

3.2. This policy has been developed using guidance from the department of Health publication 'No Secrets' (2000) and Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014.

3.3. Guidance from the Department of Children, Schools and Families on the 'Every Child Matters' cross government strategy has been considered. Under 'Every Child Matters' every organisation and adult has a responsibility to safeguard all children they come into contact with.

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