



# TAI CANOLBARTH CYMRU MID-WALES HOUSING

Yn barod **amdani** **Equal** to the challenge

## Safeguarding Policy

<b>Strategic Aim:</b>	To ensure the Association delivers its core values of Excellence, Caring, Community, Equality and thinking Welsh.
<b>Reference No:</b>	Safeguarding Policy
<b>Date Of Issue:</b>	December 2016
<b>Next Review Date:</b>	December 2019
<b>Departments Affected:</b>	All Departments
<b>Approved By/Date:</b>	Board of Management December 2016
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Aidan Ackerman, Director of Customer Services
<b>Statutory Compliance:</b>	- Mental Health Capacity Act, Harassment Act 1997 - Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2016

*This page has intentionally been left blank*

## **SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

### **1. Introduction**

1.1 Safeguarding is about protecting children and adults from abuse or neglect and educating those around them to recognize the signs and dangers. The Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2016 introduces a strengthened, robust and effective partnership approach to safeguarding. Part 7 of the Act relates to safeguarding and has its own statutory guidance and regulations. However, other parts of the Act link to the duty to protect people from abuse and neglect, and to protect children from harm. One of the most important principles of safeguarding is that it is everyone's responsibility. Each professional and organization must do everything they can, to ensure that children and adults at risk are protected from abuse.

### **2. Safeguarding Children and Young People**

2.1 Safeguarding is everyone's business. However, the Social Services and Wellbeing Act 2016 sets out particular duties for local authorities and relevant partners working with children and young people. There is a duty for relevant partners of a local authority to report children at risk. If a partner has reasonable cause to suspect a child is at risk it must inform the local authority of that fact. When a child has been reported under Section 130 of the Social Services and Wellbeing Act the local authority shall make enquiries to enable them to decide whether they should take action to safeguard or promote the child's welfare under section 47 of the Children Act 1989.

#### **2.2 Definition**

A child is "anyone who has not yet reached their 18th birthday". 'Children' therefore means 'children and young people' throughout. The fact that a child has reached 16 years of age, is living independently or is in further education, is a member of the armed forces, is in hospital or in custody in the secure estate for children and young people, does not change his or her status or entitlement to services or protection under the Children Act 1989 (see Children's Act 2004).

2.3 The definition of a "child at risk" is a child who: is experiencing or is at risk of abuse, neglect or other kinds of harm, and has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs).

#### **2.4 Legislation**

The Association will follow the:

- Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2016;
- All-Wales Child Protection procedures.
- Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004
- Sexual Offences Act 2003

### **3. Safeguarding Adults**

- 3.1 Safeguarding is everyone's business. However, the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act sets out particular duties for local authorities and their partners working with adults.
- 3.2 There is a duty for relevant partners of a local authority to report and adult at risk. If a partner has reasonable cause to suspect that a person is an adult at risk it must inform the local authority of that fact.
- 3.3 There is a new duty for a local authority to make enquiries if it has reasonable cause to suspect that a person within its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there) is an adult at risk. Authorities must decide whether any action should be taken and, if so, what and by whom.

#### **3.4 Definition**

A definition of an "adult at risk" is an adult who: is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs), and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it. Abuse means physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or financial abuse. Neglect means a failure to meet a person's basic physical, emotional, social or psychological needs, which is likely to result in an impairment of the person's well-being.

- 3.5 The inclusion of 'at risk' enables early intervention to protect an adult at risk. The decision to act does not require actual abuse or neglect to have taken place. The aim is to protect people who need it and to help them to prevent abuse or neglect.

#### **3.6 Legislation**

The Association will follow the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales Act), All Wales Interim Policy and Procedures for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults.

### **4. Policy Objectives**

Our main policy objective is to ensure that all staff will promote safeguarding as the norm; and understand their safeguarding responsibility and their active role in working together to safeguard children and adults from risk.

For this policy to be effective it is essential that:

- 4.1 Mid-Wales Housing Association has a Safeguarding officer to provide support and advice to staff. The Safeguarding Officer is the post of Community Housing Team Leader or in that Officer's absence, the Director of Customer Services or another Executive Director.

- 4.2 Staff have an applied understanding of what safeguarding means, know that safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, know the signs and symptoms of potential risk, how to access safeguarding information, advice and guidance and are committed to making an informed contribution to safeguard children and adults at risk.
- 4.3 Staff have a duty to refer concerns, disclosures or suspicions of risk. This, in the first instance, would be to the Safeguarding officer. The Safeguarding Officer will then contact the relevant agency if they consider it appropriate. The Safeguarding officer may seek the guidance of the Director of Customer Services or in his absence, another Executive Director of the Association.

## **5. Multi-Agency Working**

Good interagency and multi-disciplinary working is promoted within Mid-Wales Housing Association and staff are encouraged to work with statutory agencies such as the Police, Social Care and Safeguarding Boards.

## **6. Staff Training**

Mid Wales Housing Association will:

- ensure that all relevant staff are trained in dealing with issues relating to safeguarding to the appropriate level;
- ensure that all relevant staff are trained in dealing with issues relating to safeguarding to the appropriate level;

## **7. Confidentiality**

Mid-Wales Housing Association will **maintain the confidentiality of all personal customer information** and not disclose it outside of the Association without the permission of the customer, unless legally obliged to do so or as a requirement to ensure the safety and health of staff, tenants and the contractors acting on behalf of Mid Wales Housing Association.

## **8. Review**

The policy will be reviewed every three years to ensure its on-going relevance.

<b>Strategic Risk Factors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SR16/008 Health &amp; Safety</li> <li>- SR16/016 Reputation</li> <li>- SR16/017 Organisational Culture</li> </ul>	
<b>Equality Impact Audit</b>	<i>How does/will this policy ensure needs are met fairly, particularly with regard to race, gender, disability etc?</i>	This policy is introduced specifically to ensure that needs are met fairly particularly with regard to protecting vulnerable adults and children. This policy has been considered and approved by the Equality Review Group.
	<i>Is it felt that this Policy might affect different groups adversely. If so what is the justification for this, and is it legally permissible?</i>	This policy will affect different groups positively and not adversely by protecting vulnerable individuals.
	<i>Have any representative groups in the locality been asked for their opinion and if so what was the outcome?</i>	The Tenants' and Residents' Forum will be consulted. Tai Cantref have been consulted to provide a critical friend in the policy formulation.
<b>Tenant Engagement</b>	<i>How does/will this policy ensure the needs of tenants are met?</i>	The Tenants' and Residents' Forum will be consulted.
	<i>How is it felt this Policy will impact on the rights and obligations of tenants?</i>	The Tenants' and Residents' Forum will be consulted.
	<i>Have tenants been consulted and were the outcomes of that consultation taken into account when considering the introduction of this Policy?</i>	The Tenants' and Residents' Forum will be consulted.