



The Villages Housing Association Limited

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

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The Villages Housing Association Limited

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Version Control

(Summarises revisions to the document)

Version Number/ Date	Revision Details	By (person)	Approved by	Board approval date
1				
2				
3				

Equality Impact Assessment

Date	By (person)	Initial (yes/no)	Full (yes/no)
1 12/08/2010	Michelle Askew	yes	no
2			
3			

Distribution / Alert

This document has been distributed by CEO's P.A. to the following:-

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Introduction

As a Housing Association (Registered Social Landlord) Villages Housing employees, volunteers and board members may come into contact with children in a variety of circumstances including, tenancy checks and routine repairs.

Children and young people are the victims of different kinds of abuse, they can be subjected to social factors that have an adverse impact upon their lives – including domestic violence, substance misuse, bullying, child prostitution and ritualistic abuse.

Under the terms of the Children Act 2004 anyone under the age of 19 is considered to be a child/young person.

What is Safeguarding?

Safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children is -

- 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;
- undertaking that role so as to enable those children to have optimum life chances and enter adulthood successfully.

Under the terms of the Children Act 2004 anyone under the age of 19 is considered to be a child/young person.

What is our responsibility?

Safeguarding children is the **responsibility of everyone**. Villages Housing Association aim to create a safe environment within which children and young people can thrive and employees can work with the security of clear guidance.

This policy will ensure that:

- A dedicated Safeguarding Children Lead "Supporting People Manager" is in position.
- A Safeguarding Procedure and guidance is in place.
- Villages Housing Association employees, volunteers and board members are aware of the need to be alert to the signs of abuse and know what to do with their concerns.
- All paid and unpaid staff are provided with appropriate support and training.

- Children and young people are listened to, valued and respected.

What is the legislation and guidance that applies?

This safeguarding policy and procedures has been written in line with government guidance and legislation;

Children Acts 1989 and 2004

Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006

Working Together to Safeguard Children 2006

What to do if you're worried a child is being abused 2006

KSCB Multi-Agency Safeguarding Children Procedures 2009

How is safeguarding children in Knowsley/Oldham managed and co-ordinated?

Knowsley Safeguarding Children Board (KSCB) and Oldham Safeguarding Children Board (OSGB) is responsible for coordinating the arrangements made by different local organizations to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Further information about the safeguarding boards can be accessed at:

www.knowsleyspace.co.uk

www.oldham.gov.uk/lscb-home