

Safeguarding Adults Policy.

Verda Living RP Limited

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1 Background

Safeguarding adults is everyone's responsibility. Some of our customers are at risk of abuse, harm or neglect. We all have a responsibility to protect them. This policy explains what safeguarding is, the types of harm, abuse or neglect and outlines the steps we'll take to identify and respond to safeguarding concerns. We'll always report concerns to the local authority and/or police.

2 Purpose

To establish a policy for Safeguarding Adults at risk which is relevant and, as a minimum, delivers legislative and regulatory compliance in relation to Safeguarding.

This policy sets out guidelines for safeguarding adults to ensure that employees and/or our representatives know how to recognise signs of harm and abuse, and where they do occur, that there is appropriate response to protect those affected.

Our policy is that we will:

- Comply with legal and regulatory requirements;
- Aim to have robust safeguarding arrangements in place;
- Work in partnership with other agencies to reduce the risk of harm and abuse for our customers;
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned;
- Always act in the customer's best interests by making safeguarding personal for the customer; and
- Make safeguarding the responsibility of all employees and service providers.

3 Scope of the Policy

This document should be used by all employees, contractors and volunteers of Verda Living RP Limited to understand the obligations placed upon the organisation to maintain a safe environment for their customers and employees within our properties.

Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 states that safeguarding enquiries should be made where a person has needs for care and support and is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect as a result of their care and support needs.

They may be a person who:

- Is elderly and frail due to ill health, physical disability or cognitive impairment;
- Has a learning disability
- Has a physical disability and/or a sensory impairment
- Has mental health needs, including dementia
- Has a long-term illness or condition
- Misuses substances or alcohol
- Is a carer (family member/friend) and is subject to abuse
- Does not have capacity to make a decision and is in need of care and support

4 Safeguarding Adults

In the safeguarding of adults, Verda Living RP Limited is guided by the six key principles set out in The Care Act 2014. Verda Living RP Limited aims to demonstrate and promote these six principles in our work:

1. Empowerment – People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
2. Prevention – It is better to take action before harm occurs.
3. Proportionality – The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
4. Protection – Support and representation for those in greatest need.
5. Partnership – Local solutions through services working with their local neighbourhoods, where people have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
6. Accountability – Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

Safeguarding Adults means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.

Safeguarding adults categories of abuse include; sexual, modern slavery, psychological, discrimination, domestic abuse, self neglect, neglect or acts of omission, financial abuse or exploitation, physical or organisational.

A person can become at risk at any time and all staff and contractors have a responsibility to be aware of actual and potential risk to adults and to ensure that the correct process is followed.

There are circumstances where the person alleged to have caused harm may also be an adult at risk of abuse or neglect, and in these circumstances, they must receive protection and support using a multi-agency approach.

5 Policy Detail

We will establish clear lines of responsibility and accountability for the detection, recording and reporting of safeguarding concerns. This includes clear robust processes and timescales for sharing information with lead agencies and local safeguarding boards. We will undertake regular audits to ensure policy and procedures are followed. We have set out this policy accordingly.

We ensure that our staff and customers understand what abuse is, what to do if they have a concern and to whom they can report concerns. If we suspect or identify possible harm to, abuse of or neglect of an adult at risk, we'll report it to the local authority team with responsibility for Safeguarding Adults. If there's an immediate risk to safety or a crime has been committed, we'll call the police or an ambulance.

The local authorities where we operate may have policies and procedures which reflect local arrangements. Verda Living RP Limited and service providers will operate in line with these local protocols for Adults.

Reporting to Statutory Agencies

We will record and refer concerns, suspicions and allegations of abuse, harm or neglect to the lead statutory agency responsible for carrying out safeguarding assessments and enquiries. In most cases, this will be the Police or local authority. We will record all decisions made not to refer a concern, and the reason why. We will ensure that all safeguarding referrals that staff or customers have made are recorded appropriately, and we will also record any incidents where we refer onto another agency.

Working with other agencies

We will engage with, and fully contribute to, multi-agency working in response to safeguarding concerns. This includes responding to requests for information from the local authority, Safeguarding Adult Boards, Domestic Homicide Reviews wherever appropriate.

6 Recruitment

All appropriate staff will be subject to the relevant Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks and updates in line with best practice. All relevant job roles will include safeguarding within the role profile.

7 Training

All staff are required to read the safeguarding policy and understand the contents to ensure that they are able to identify adults at risk who may be at risk and act appropriately.

All staff will receive a basic level of training which is periodically refreshed for existing staff no more than 3 years apart. Service leads will be provided with more detailed training.

8 Data Protection

We'll treat any information given to us confidentially and in line with the current Data Protection legislation. Verda Living RP Limited understands the importance of ensuring that personal data is always treated fairly, lawfully and appropriately and that the rights of individuals are upheld. However, we are clear that where an individual's safety is at risk, we are required to report our concerns to the responsible authorities and share information with them.

Information that may be shared includes names, contact details, a person's physical or mental health, or relations with others. The sharing of this information will be restricted to those who have a demonstrable need to know and robust protections, such as encryption, will be used to share this information.

9 Monitoring and Reporting

All safeguarding cases will be monitored on a six monthly basis. Accountability for safeguarding will in turn be reported to the Board annually. Each case will be handled by a manager who will provide guidance and supervision to make sure it is handled properly.

10 Annual Review

This policy is reviewed annually by the board of the Company.

Version	Date Approved	Date for Review	Updates
1.0	June 2025	June 2026	Creation of first version of policy