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Safeguarding Adults Policy 2015 - 2018

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South Essex Homes – Keeping you informed

www.southessexhomes.co.uk

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1.0 Introduction and Scope

The purpose of this policy is to clearly define South Essex Homes' commitment to the safeguarding of adults and to provide guidance to staff, volunteers and contractors who come into contact and or provide services to adults on behalf of this company and/or in co-operation with other partner agencies. This policy does not effect or remove partner agencies and contractors statutory and legal obligations to adopt their own operational policies and procedures to support safeguarding and information sharing protocols. This policy should be read in conjunction with the:-

- Southend, Essex and Thurrock Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures documents which are available at: <http://www.southend.gov.uk> or www.SouthEssexHomes.co.uk
- Care Act 2014
- Care and support statutory guidance (this replaces the No Secrets Guidance)
- South Essex Homes Safeguarding Adults Procedure
- South Essex Homes Whistle blowing Policy

2.0 Corporate Aims and Objectives

This policy links to South Essex Homes' aim to:

- Identify initiatives to enhance the communities where residents live and increase satisfaction with neighbourhoods
- Working in partnership with the Council and other providers to contribute to building community capacity and securing inward investment

3.0 General Policy Statement

This policy will enable South Essex Homes to demonstrate its commitment to protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. We will do this by assisting and supporting adults to maintain their own safety and ensuring that the adult's wellbeing is being promoted and has regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. South Essex Homes acknowledges its duty to act appropriately to any allegations, reports or suspicions of abuse particularly where an adult is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

It is important to have the policy and procedures in place so that staff, volunteers, service users and carers, and management committee can work with adults to prevent abuse and know what to do in the event of abuse.

The Policy Statement and Procedures have been drawn up in order to enable South Essex Homes to:

- provide information and advice
- promote good practice and work in a way that can prevent harm, abuse and coercion occurring
- ensure that the process is inclusive at all stages of the adult concerned
- support adults to identify and mitigate against potential risks
- support adults who are unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect

- ensure that any allegations of abuse or suspicions are dealt with appropriately and the person experiencing abuse is supported.
- stop that abuse re-occurring.

The Policy and Procedures relate to the safeguarding of adults. Adults are defined as:

- People aged 18 or over
- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- Is experiencing, or at risk of , abuse or neglect
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

The policy applies to all staff, including senior managers, management committee members, trustees, paid staff, volunteers, sessional workers, agency staff, students and anyone working on behalf of South Essex Homes.

It is acknowledged that significant numbers of adults are abused and it is important that South Essex Homes has a Safeguarding Adults Policy, a set of procedures to follow and puts in place preventative measures to try and reduce those numbers.

In order to implement the policy the South Essex Homes will work:

- with the Local Authority's Safeguarding Adult Board or Safeguarding Adults Service to assist in their enquiries, if it believes an adult is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.
- to promote the freedom and dignity of the person who has or is experiencing abuse
- to ascertain the adults views and wishes
- to promote the rights of all people to live free from abuse and coercion
- to ensure the safety and well being of people who do not have the capacity to decide how they want to respond to abuse that they are experiencing
- arrange where appropriate for an independent advocate to represent and support an adult who is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect to enable them to achieve resolution and recovery
- to manage services in a way which promotes safety and prevents abuse
- recruit staff and volunteers safely, ensuring all necessary checks are made
- to provide effective management for staff and volunteers through supervision, support and training
- to ensure that safeguarding training for all staff and relevant board members is carried out every three years and that safeguarding is included in the staff induction for all new members of staff.

South Essex Homes:-

- will ensure that all management board members, trustees, staff, volunteers, service users, and carers/families are familiar with this policy and procedures
- will work with other agencies within the framework of the Southend, Essex and Thurrock (SET) Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures Version 4 – April 2015
- will act within it's confidentiality policy and will usually gain permission from service users before sharing information about them with another agency
- will pass information to the Local Authority Safeguarding Adults Services when more than one person is at risk. For example: if the concern relates to a worker, volunteer or organisation who provides a service to vulnerable adults or children
- will inform service users that where a person is in danger, an adult is at risk or a crime has been committed then a decision may be taken to pass information to another agency without the service user's consent
- will make a referral to the Adult Safeguarding Team (Access Team) as appropriate
- will endeavour to keep up to date with national developments relating to preventing abuse and welfare of adults
- will ensure that the Designated Named Person understands his/her responsibility to refer incidents of adult abuse to the relevant statutory agencies (Police/Adult Services)
- will ensure that the designated person attend the Safeguarding Adults Board and the Group Manager for Housing Services attend the Executive Safeguarding Adults Board.

The Designated Named Person for Safeguarding Adults in South Essex Homes is Traci Dixon, Group Manager Housing and her contact details are:-

Telephone number 01702 212625

Email address tracidixon@seh.southend.gov.uk

The Group Manager Housing Services who sits on the Executive Safeguarding Adults Board is Simon Putt and his contact details are:-

Telephone number 01702 212624

Email address simonputt@seh.southend.gov.uk

They should be contacted for support and advice on implementing the safeguarding adults policy and procedures.

For more information about this document please contact us

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