

<b>Policy Name:</b>	Safeguarding Adults at Risk of Abuse or Neglect
<b>Lead Directorate:</b>	Housing
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<b>Reason for change:</b>	Review
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#### Approval process for current version

<b>Presented to:</b>	Services Committee
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<b>Decision:</b>	Approved

## 1. Introduction

Safeguarding is protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

Everyone must be treated with respect and their right to privacy, dignity, independence and choice protected.

## 2. Confidentiality

***The duty to share information is as important as the duty to protect confidentiality.***

Confidentiality must be respected. Information given in confidence should not be shared without consent unless justified by a risk to the individual or others.

## 3. Definitions

Adult	anyone aged 18 or over
At risk	Independence and/or well-being is compromised due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• age</li> <li>• an abusive relationship</li> <li>• having been in care, prison or other institution</li> <li>• long-term limiting illness or condition</li> <li>• physical, learning or mental health disability</li> </ul>
Abuse	An act or omission causing harm or distress within a relationship where there is an expectation of trust <sup>1</sup> . It may be <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• done by any type of person in any relationship</li> <li>• one or many acts or neglect, omission or failing to act</li> <li>• unintentional or due to ignorance</li> </ul>

## 4. Principles

Accountability	Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding
Empowerment	Individuals supported and encouraged to make decisions and give informed consent
Partnership	Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting
Prevention	It is better to take action before harm occurs
Proportionality	The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
Protection	Support and representation for those in greatest need

<sup>1</sup> Adapted from Action on Elder Abuse definition

## 5. Roles & Responsibilities

Strategic	Board/Committee Member Director of Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• champion safeguarding</li><li>• oversee policy</li><li>• support operational leads</li></ul>
Operational	AD, Housing Services Head of Community Safeguarding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• H&amp;S Committee member</li><li>• oversee performance</li><li>• oversee procedure</li><li>• support staff</li></ul>
Alerter	staff, contractors, partners, volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• attend training</li><li>• report every concern</li></ul>

## 6. Risk

Poplar HARCA will respect an individual's right to live independently and that this can sometimes involve risk. When an individual chooses to accept a risk their wishes should be respected unless there is a concern about their capacity<sup>2</sup>; or if others would be at risk as a result of their decision.

## 7. Collaboration

Protecting adults at risk of abuse is complex. Assessment and action will usually be in co-operation and collaboration with specialist or statutory agencies such as the Council, health professionals or the Police.

## 8. Whistle Blowing

No matter what the setting, who the perpetrator is or who the victim is Poplar HARCA will respect and not penalise those who stand up for someone they suspect is being abused.

Staff should escalate a concern that a colleague is involved in abuse, or has knowledge of abuse but not disclosed it. Poplar HARCA's whistle-blowing policy sets out how it will respond to such a report.

## 9. Support for Staff

Support will be provided to staff who have reported, or are dealing with, incidents of abuse.

## 10. Policy Review

Policies are reviewed every 5 years or sooner if no longer reflect best practice.

## 11. Impact Assessment

How does the policy contribute to Poplar HARCA's aims?	Whilst not a specialist provider, we know there are adults at risk of abuse in our community. Ensuring staff can identify those at risk, and take appropriate action, meets all aims.
Which group(s) of people will benefit from the policy?	This policy sets out the aim of safeguarding adults at risk of abuse – regardless of characteristic.
How have residents been involved in developing the policy?	Our experience with, and feedback from, supported residents has informed the policy. We have also assessed it against the Safeguarding Toolkit
How will the policy be monitored and measured? (e.g. performance indicators)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• KPIs reported to Services Committee and Board</li><li>• Periodic review by Internal Audit reported to ARC</li><li>• Regular casework reviews</li><li>• Self-assessment against Safeguarding Adults toolkit</li></ul>
If any, what are the Value for Money implications?	Preventing abuse saves resource, time, and money. Most importantly, we are supporting to live well and safely.

<sup>2</sup> i.e. relating to soundness of mind and an intelligent understanding and perception of actions