

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS and CHILDREN POLICY

1. Introduction

1.1. The United Welsh Group acknowledges that it has a shared responsibility to actively safeguard adults and children who are at risk of abuse or neglect. Safeguarding is a shared responsibility and we will work collaboratively with other agencies and professionals to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults and children at risk.

1.2. The United Welsh Group is committed to ensuring that our safeguarding practice reflects statutory responsibilities, government guidance and best practice and in particular to working within the Wales Safeguarding Procedures for children and adults at risk of abuse and neglect (November 2019).

1.3. The United Welsh Group acknowledges that some adults and children at risk including those with defined protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010, can be particularly vulnerable to abuse and neglect and we accept the responsibility to take reasonable and appropriate steps to prevent this.

1.4. This policy and the accompanying procedure reinforce the Group's commitment to good practice, in which the welfare of adults and children at risk is paramount and any suspicion of abuse and neglect is responded to promptly and appropriately

1.5. Julian Pike, Executive Director – Housing, Support & Communities is the Executive Team Champion for Safeguarding at United Welsh.

1.6 In November 2022 – Celtic Horizons Managing Director (Alan Rogers) agreed to formally adopt a unified Safeguarding Procedure (UW & Celtic Horizons), which incorporates specific information as it relates to how Celtic Horizons colleagues refer concerns to statutory agencies and United Welsh.

2. Definition

2.1. The definition of "a child at risk" is set out in section 130(4) of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 as meaning 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 authority is meeting any of those needs).

2.2. The definition of an "adult at risk" is set out in section 126 of the Social Services and Well-Being (Wales) Act 2014 as meaning an adult who:

- is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect,
- has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs), and

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- as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it

3. Policy Aims

3.1. The aim of this policy is to promote and enhance the safety of adults and children who come into contact with the Group's services and who are being abused or neglected or are at risk of abuse or neglect.

3.2. In order to achieve this we will:

- Follow the Wales Safeguarding Procedures for children and adults at risk of abuse and neglect and ensure that any suspicion of abuse or neglect is responded to promptly and appropriately
- Train all relevant staff to the appropriate level commensurate with their role
- Cooperate with the Regional Safeguarding Boards in our areas of operation
- Fulfil our duty to report any suspicion that an adult or child may be at risk
- Ensure that our recruitment processes deter the recruitment of anyone who poses a risk, into a role which gives them access to people who may be at risk, by carrying out relevant pre-employment checks for the role
- Notify the relevant Local Authority of any allegation of abuse against a member of staff or volunteer or if we become aware that their conduct makes them unsuitable to work with people who may be at risk and notify the police of any possible criminal offence.
- Cooperate with the relevant Local Authority in any investigation, following any internal processes that may be necessary.
- Ensure that all staff members, volunteers and Board members who (during the course of their employment or voluntary activity) have direct or indirect contact with adults or children who may be at risk or access to information about them; understand and act in accordance with their safeguarding duties, and are supported to do so and specifically that they:
 - Are familiar with and follow the organisation's procedures and protocols for safeguarding adults and children and know who to contact in the organisation to express concerns about an adult or child at risk
 - Have access to and comply with best practice and in particular to the Wales Safeguarding Procedures for children and adults at risk of abuse and neglect (November 2019)
 - Receive safeguarding training to a level commensurate with their role and responsibilities
 - Know when and how to refer any concerns about an adult or child at risk to social services or the police

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- Know how to raise any concerns about a colleague or other professional
- Maintain, and store securely, detailed and accurate records of all safeguarding concerns

4. Equality Impact

4.1. An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out for this policy and accompanying procedure. It identified only positive impacts and is available on request.

4.2. United Welsh is committed to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and our Equality, Diversity and Inclusion statement can be found on the Intranet.

5. Further information

5.1. Wales Safeguarding Procedures for Adults and Children at risk of Abuse and Neglect

[Social care Wales \(safeguarding.wales\)](http://safeguarding.wales)

5.2. The Social Services and Well-being (Wales) Act 2014

<http://gov.wales/topics/health/socialcare/act/?lang=en>

5.3. Working Together to Safeguard People

<https://socialcare.wales/hub/statutory-guidance>

Related policies	Data Protection, Business Information and Personal Data Policy Conduct and Probity Policy
Related procedures	Safeguarding Procedure (UW & Celtic Horizons) Confidential Reporting Procedure – Whistleblowing Data Protection Our Privacy by Design Toolkit and Procedure Recruitment and selection procedure

Document History		
Revision Number	Revision Date	Reason for Change
0	Oct 2016	Document created

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1	March 2018	Review
2	December 2019	Review – reflect changes to national Procedures
3	October 2022	Reflect changes to the way United Welsh and Celtic Horizons work together to address safeguarding

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