1. **Introduction**

This policy outlines One Manchester’s approach to safeguarding adults at risk of harm and the way we intend to work with customers, agencies and other organisations to protect and promote their welfare.

**2.0 Purpose**

To provide a safeguarding framework that One Manchester can use to ensure the Group approach to safeguarding adults at risk is appropriate. To contribute towards sustainable communities and improve the quality of life for those people who live, work and visit the area.

1. **Definition**

Safeguarding adults at risk is defined in the care and support statutory guidance issued under the Care Act 2014 as:

* protecting the rights of adults to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect
* people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect
* people and organisations making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, taking fully into account their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action
* recognising that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances and therefore potential risk to their safety or well-being

**4.0 Scope**

Safeguarding duties apply to a person aged 18 years or over who:

* has needs for community care services (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and
* who is or may be unable to take care of himself or herself or
* as a result of those care and support needs, is unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation.

Abuse is the violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by another person or persons and can include:

* Physical abuse
* Domestic abuse including violence
* Sexual abuse
* Psychological or emotional abuse
* Financial or material abuse
* Modern slavery
* Discriminatory abuse
* Organisational abuse
* Neglect and acts of omission
* Self-neglect

**5.0 The Policy**

The guiding principles in our approach to safeguarding adults at risk are based upon the principles and values that govern how safeguarding procedures should be implemented. These reflect the most recent national guidance and Manchester City Council’s Multi Agency Safeguarding Policy and standards.

**Empowerment**

* We will support and encourage individuals to make their own decisions and informed consent
* We will support people to recognise abuse and what they can do to keep themselves safe
* We will encourage people to report abuse and make it easy to do so
* Where appropriate we will consult individuals before we take action
* We will publicise and promote our services which could support those who are at risk of harm

**Prevention**

* Staff will be familiar with the six principles underpinning adult safeguarding
* Staff will be trained to recognise the symptoms of abuse and be able to effectively and appropriately respond to safeguarding concerns
* We will proactively identify customers who may be at risk
* Recruitment practices will reflect Safer Recruitment Guidance
* We will make appropriate enquires concerning suspected abuse or neglect

**Proportionality**

* Safeguarding concerns will be responded to proportionately by investigating and taking the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
* We will ensure we have effective ways of assessing and managing risk

**Protection**

* Where appropriate we will work with partner agencies to support and protect those reporting or being abused
* We will use all relevant tools or powers available, according to our best professional judgment
* We will ensure that suspected criminality is reported quickly to the police
* We will respond to and monitor each reported case of abuse or neglect until a satisfactory outcome is achieved
* We will promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned

**Partnership**

* We will actively engage with Manchester’s Adult Safeguarding Board and Strategic Housing Partnership
* We will align services with wider Government and Local Authority guidance and initiatives
* Learning from Serious Case Reviews will be promoted and embedded
* We will develop effective safeguarding networks

**Accountability**

* We will have clear Adult Safeguarding operational policies, procedures and information sharing protocols
* We will treat all reports of abuse and neglect as confidential, sharing information only with other organisations that can help with the problem, observing data protection laws and information sharing principles
* We will reflect local and national best practice
* Our safeguarding approach will be regularly audited and evaluated
* We will use feedback from customers to review how we deliver our services
* We will understand our customers’ needs and monitor any emerging issues/themes

**6.0 Equality**

The Equality Act 2010 provides people with a protected characteristic protection from direct or indirect discrimination; harassment and victimisation. We recognise that safeguarding adults disproportionality impacts upon people with protected characteristics, in particular, characteristics related to disability and age. It may also impact on those who may be subject to discrimination by association, for example carers or people with disabilities. We will take additional steps and make reasonable adjustments to ensure compliance with the Act.

An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out on this policy.

**7.0 Method and approach**

This policy should be read in conjunction with all procedures, guidance notes and complementary policies in order to meet its aims.

**8.0 Responsibility**

The Board and Chief Executive are responsible for ensuring that this policy complies with legislative requirements.

All managers, staff and where appropriate contractors are responsible for implementing this policy.

One Manchester has named Safeguarding Champions that are responsible for the on-going development and delivery of safeguarding policy and practice that support interagency safeguarding arrangements.

**9.0 Monitoring, review and evaluation**

Operations Committee will monitor performance relating to safeguarding.

One Manchester Board will receive updates on live cases and notifications of serious case reviews.

We will have in place arrangements for the regular and independent scrutiny of the effectiveness of our safeguarding arrangements.

This policy will be reconsidered against all relevant legislative changes and will be reviewed every three years as a matter of course.

**10.0 Legislation**

This policy and any subsequent procedures have been written in accordance with relevant guidance and legislation, which includes:

* Human Rights Act 1998
* Equality Act 2010
* General Data Protection Regulations 2016
* Mental Capacity Act 2005
* Mental Health Act 2007
* Safeguarding Adults Multi-Agency Safeguarding Policy Manchester Safeguarding Adults Board June 2010
* Manchester Safeguarding Standard 2011
* Care Act 2014
* Care Act 2014: statutory guidance for implementation
* Tenant Involvement and Empowerment Standard
* Neighbourhood and Community Standard

**11.0 Associated Policies**

* Safeguarding Children Policy
* Adult at Risk of Harm Policy
* Antisocial Behaviour and Hate Crime Policy
* Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy
* Concern Card Procedure