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Document Control

Active date	Review date	Author	Editor	Publisher
April 2014	April 2016	S.Chapman E.Dodd	Karen Metcalf	Jackie Sutton

Amendment History

Version	Date	Author	Reasons for Change
2.0	10.2.10	S. Chapman	Introduction of new policy incorporating adult safeguarding.
2.1	25/05/11	E Dodd	Revised template
2.2	25/10/11	E Dodd	Revised Role Names
2.3	04/12/12	Mark Jones	Revised Role Names
2.4	01/04/14	Karen Metcalf	New format
2.5	01/04/15	Karen Metcalf	Revised Role Names
2.6	28/04/2017	Kevin Johnson	Revised MFRS Safeguarding Policy

Equalities Impact Assessment

Initial	Full	Date	Reviewed by	Comments
	X	14.5.2011	U.Miah	
	X	30.05.17	K. Johnson	

Civil Contingencies Impact Assessment

Date	Reviewed by	Comments

Related Documents

Doc. Type	Ref No.	Title	Location
	SI 0474	Hate Crime Incident Report	
	SI 0713	Safeguarding Adults and Children	
	Strategy	Prevent Strategy	
	CFO/069/11	Employee Code of Conduct	

Distribution List

Name	Position	I/R
All MFRS		

Sign-Off List

Name	Position
SMG	All members

Target audience

All MFRS	X	Ops Crews		Fire safety		Community FS		Support Staff	
Principal off.		Senior off.		etc		etc		etc	

Ownership

FOI exemption required?	Yes	URL
	No	Reason

Legislation

Title		N/A
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POLICY

Safeguarding Policy

1. Policy Introduction and Background

Safeguarding is a term used in the United Kingdom and Ireland to denote measures to protect the health, well-being and human rights of individuals, which allow people — especially children, young people and vulnerable adults — to live free from abuse, harm and neglect.

The Care Act 2014 signified a shift from existing duties on Local Authorities to provide particular services to the concept of 'meeting needs'. Chapter 14 of the Act introduces a new statutory framework for Adult Safeguarding which replaces the previous 'No Secrets Guidance' issued in 2000. The definition of an 'Adult at Risk' is a person who is aged 18 years old or over who is in need of care and support regardless of whether they are receiving them and because of those needs are unable to protect themselves against abuse or neglect.

The definition of a 'Child at Risk; for the purposes of child protection is "anyone who has not reached their 18th birthday (Children Act 2004). Child protection procedures also apply to an unborn baby.

The aims of Safeguarding Adults are:

- To prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs;
- To safeguard individuals in a way that supports them in making choices and having control in how they choose to live their lives (Making safeguarding personal);
- To promote an outcomes approach in safeguarding that works for people resulting in the best experiences possible; and
- To raise public awareness so that professionals, other staff and communities as a whole play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect.

The aims of Safeguarding Children are:

- To protect from abuse and maltreatment;
- To prevent harm to children's health or development;
- To ensure children grow up with the provision of safe and effective care; and
- To take action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

In order to achieve these aims, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (MF&RA) will commit to:

- Ensuring that the roles and responsibilities of individuals and the organisation are clearly laid out;
- Create a strong multi-agency framework for safeguarding;
- Enable access to mainstream community safety measures; and
- Clarify the interface between safeguarding and the quality of service provision by MFRS.

This policy is based on **The Six Principles of Safeguarding** that underpin all adult safeguarding work.

Empowerment	People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and give informed consent
Prevention	It is better to take action before harm occurs
Proportionality	Proportionate and the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented
Protection	Support and representation for those in greatest need
Partnerships	Local solutions through services working with their communities – communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse
Accountability	Accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice

2. Policy Explanation

Anyone who has experienced abuse and or neglect or has fears about exploitation or radicalisation will be able to raise the issue with a member of staff at MFRA in the knowledge that the matter will be treated seriously and sympathetically in accordance with this policy.

MFRA is committed to working in partnership with all relevant stakeholders to provide a safe and supportive environment free from the risk of abuse and neglect for any adult or child at risk with whom MFRA engages.

Safeguarding

Everyone working within MFRA, either in a paid or voluntary capacity, has a role to play in safeguarding children and adults and preventing the abuse of those who may be vulnerable. Staff may have contact with vulnerable adults and children can be a very important link in identifying cases where a vulnerable adult or child requires safeguarding.

Staff must always act on any suspected or potential case of abuse by reporting directly and without delay.

Allegations of Abuse made against Members of Staff

Any allegations of abuse made against members of staff will be dealt with using MF&RA internal procedures.

Confidentiality

Managers or officers cannot provide an absolute guarantee of confidentiality in all circumstances where 'vulnerable adult or child at risk' issues are raised. In these circumstances, the manager or Officer should inform the person that she/he would be referring the matter to a Designated Officer within the Service for further guidance.

MFRA will support anyone who, in good faith, reports his or her concerns that an adult, young person or child is being abused or is at risk of abuse, even if those concerns prove to be unfounded. See MFRA data sharing policy.

3. Policy Implementation

SI 0713 Safeguarding Adults and Children
SI 0474 Hate Crime Incident Report