

# M&G Affordable Living RP Limited (“MAL”)

## Safeguarding Children and Young People Policy

Landlord: MAL Affordable Living RP Limited “MAL”

Version: MAL 1.0

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Authors: Director Asset Management

### 1. Our policy statement.

MAL recognises that we have a significant role to play in safeguarding children and young people at risk of harm and abuse as part of its day-to-day work. It is our aim to develop an environment in which abuse is not tolerated in any form.

This policy sets out guidelines for safeguarding children and young people to ensure that employees and/or our representatives know how to recognise signs of harm and abuse, and where they do occur, that there is appropriate response to protect those affected.

Our managing agent’s primary role as ‘alerters’ is to report safeguarding concerns to the local authority and/or multi agency partners.

### 2. Definition

Safeguarding children is defined as:

- Providing help and support to meet the needs of children as soon as problems emerge
- Protecting children from maltreatment , whether that is within or outside the home, including online
- Preventing impairment of children’s mental and physical health or development
- Ensuring that children grow up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care
- Promoting the upbringing of children with their birth parents, or otherwise their family network, through a kinship arrangement, whenever possible and where this is in the best interest of the children
- Taking action to enable all children to have the best outcomes in line with the outcomes set out in the Children’s Social Care National Framework

### 3. Safeguarding Children and Young people

The safeguarding duty to children and young people applies to anyone who has not reached their 18th birthday. Child abuse can include, but is not limited to:

- Physical abuse
- Domestic abuse including violence
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Neglect
- Sexual abuse
- Forced marriage
- Trafficking
- Bullying including E-abuse
- Gang activity.

### 4. Responding to suspected or alleged harm or abuse

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Our managing agent employees play an important role in building and maintaining partnerships with local authorities and key specialist agencies and will work with them as required to safeguard children and young people.

If an employee suspects abuse or has received a report of abuse they will:

- Report it to a senior staff member immediately. Our managing agents will not investigate suspected abuse or neglect. Safeguarding of children and young people is a complex area which must be dealt with by the appropriate agencies and channels.
- Refer any concerns to the relevant Local Authority, Children or Adult services where appropriate and the Police if there is a suspected or actual crime.
- Local Authorities have the lead responsibility in coordinating safeguarding work, establishing safeguarding boards and to develop multi agency policies and procedures to provide a framework for partner organisations to work together.
- Relevant information sharing protocols should be followed where they exist. Where possible a person’s consent should be sought to share information, but full confidentiality cannot be guaranteed when the responsibility to safeguard the child or young person at risk is greater than the responsibility to the individual.
- Record any discussions and actions carried out following suspected or alleged harm or abuse accurately, thoroughly and promptly.
- Work with other agencies to investigate any alleged breach of tenancy agreement and take action through policies and procedures where appropriate.
- Work collaboratively with local authorities to assess the vulnerability of tenants where required and aim to resolve tenancy management issues before taking legal action.

### 5. Employee training, recruitment and conduct

As part of their induction, employees at our managing agents will be required to read and understand all relevant policies and procedures provided, including this policy.

Employees will be trained in the implications and processes involved with the safeguarding of children and young persons will be trained in how to identify signs of abuse and neglect.

Employees who have regular contact residents are suitably vetted and checked by the Disclosure and Barring Service.

Where a person suspected of abuse or neglect is a member of staff, a disciplinary investigation will be carried out immediately. If a member of staff suspects that any other member of staff is involved in abuse or neglect, they should report this through the correct channels as detailed in the managing agent’s Whistleblowing Policy.

All our representatives are expected to have an effective safeguarding policy in place if they do not, they should be willing to work in accordance with this policy.

### 6. Regulatory code and legal framework

AL will comply with all legal and regulatory expectations outlined in the following:

- Children Act 1989
- Children Act 2004
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Equality Act 2010
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) 2018
- Data Protection Act 2018
- Human Rights Act 1998
- United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

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- Care Act 2014
- Housing Act 1996
- Housing Act 2004
- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Regulator’s Neighbourhood and Community Standard

### 7. Policy review.

We will review this policy at least every two years to make sure it remains relevant and accurate, or more frequently where:

- Legislation, regulation or industry changes require otherwise, making sure that it continues to meet our aims and industry best practice.
- We identify any problems or failures in this policy or procedure as a result of customer, colleague or stakeholder feedback, complaints, or findings from an independent organisation.
- We become aware of any circumstances which may affect the content of this policy.

### 8. Version Control

Version	Checked by	Amendments	Date of Approval	Review date
MAL Affordable Living Limited.	Director Fund Management	Policy adoption.	Feb. 2026	Feb 2028