



## DHA Safeguarding Policy

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<b>Approval</b>	Chair of Trustees

**Overview** - The Deddington Housing Association (DHA) manages the Holly Tree Cottages (HTC) on Earls Lane in Deddington, Oxfordshire. These properties are considered “Independent Living” accommodation, suitable for those who are aged and/or disabled and/or in necessitous circumstances within the parish of Deddington. DHA provide no additional support services to tenants, other than what is required from any responsible landlord i.e. property and grounds maintenance etc. However, DHA recognises that they have a moral duty to ensure the wellbeing of their tenants and do so on an unscheduled basis.

DHA offers no care services, or further social support that would be considered regulated activity by the Care Quality Commission, under the Health and Social Care Act 2008. Should a DHA tenant wish to engage a care agency to support their domiciliary/nursing needs, they do so of their own free will and cost, DHA has no input on this.

**Purpose** - The purpose of the DHA Safeguarding Policy is to define and provide clarity about its role in safeguarding their tenants, and how they will -

- *Reduce the risk of harm to the residents of the DHA.*
- *Discharge its moral duty to deal quickly and effectively with any concerns relating to safeguarding.*

**Definition** – The Care Act 2014 statutory guidance defines adult safeguarding as:

“Protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear, or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.”

**There are 10 types of abuse that have been identified within the Care Act 2014 and associated guidance. DHA recognises that all types of abuse are unlawful and where appropriate will raise all concerns to Oxfordshire County Council Adult Social Services, or where it is duly considered the alleged victim is at imminent and extreme risk of harm, through the Police via the 999 system.**

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### **Taking reasonable steps to protect tenants -**

DHA only uses bona-fide companies and contractors to conduct work on their premises. Where routine maintenance is required, such as gas safety inspections, DHA will attempt to ensure that only those who hold a valid Disclosure and Barring Service certificate, carry out such work. Where the maintenance is an emergency, i.e. burst pipe, the maintenance takes priority over the need for a DBS on a risk weighing basis. Where possible in this event a DHA trustee would be in attendance.

Note - DHA holds no record of these DBS checks, this would be the responsibility of their employer.

A member of the DHA board of trustees tries to contact each tenant on a weekly basis as a minimum to ensure they are well and there are no issues with the property. These are called "Safe & Well checks".

### **DHA Safeguarding Procedures**

#### **Procedure to be followed if abuse is suspected –**

*(This procedure applies in all cases where the alleged victim, or another party reports concerns, or where a Trustee identifies concerns)*

- *Ensure there is no immediate risk to the tenant or reporter and if necessary, seek medical assistance.*
- *Ascertain the basic facts including -*
  - *Nature, date, time & place of alleged abuse*
  - *account of the incident as it is described.*
  - *details of all parties involved – reporter, witnesses & victim (include date of birth)*
  - *name and details of alleged abuser (include date of birth and gender where known)*
- *Be open, transparent & empathetic with the alleged victim. Ask them for their account.*
- *Inform the alleged victim what actions DHA will take following the report –*
  - *Contact OCC Adult Social Services to make a report regarding the allegation and seek advice.*
  - *In the event the abuse is happening at the time of the report being made, or where there is an imminent and extreme threat to the health and wellbeing of the alleged victim, police should be contacted by calling 999.*
  - *Inform the Chair of Trustees as soon as possible.*
  - *Ensure that a full, written account is created. This can be in the form of an email to the Chair of Trustees. This should be done as soon as possible.*