



**Service Policy: PREVPOL09
Safeguarding Policy**

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APRIL 2014	July 2026			

Amendment History:

Version	Date	Author	Reasons for Change
2.0	10.2.10		Introduction of new policy incorporating adult safeguarding
2.1	25/05/11		Revised template
2.2	25/10/11		Revised Role Names
2.3	04/12/12		Revised Role Names
2.4	01/04/14		New format
2.5	01/04/15		Revised Role Names
2.6	28/04/2017		Revised MFRS Safeguarding Policy (Author Change)
2.7	18/01/2020		Review of Policy
2.8	28.02.2022		Review of Policy
2.9	20/7/23		Prevention Policy Refresh – review of Policy
2.10	12/03/2024		Annual Review
2.11	23/03/2026		Review of Policy and Legislative Change

Equalities Impact Assessment:

Initial	Full	Date	Reviewed by	Comments
	x	2023	ED&I Team	Located on Portal

Civil Contingencies Impact Assessment:

Date	Reviewed by	Comments

Related Documents:

Doc. Type	Ref No.	Title	Location
Service Instruction	SI 0474	Hate Crime Incident Report	
Service Instruction	SI 0713	Safeguarding Adults and Children	
Strategy		Prevention Strategy	
Policy	CFO/069/11	Employee Code of Conduct North West Adults Safeguarding Policy	

Distribution List:

Name	Position	Department

Sign-Off List:

Name	Position
S.L.T	All Members

Target Audience:

All MFRS	Principal Officers	Senior Officers	Operational Crews	Fire Safety	Community Fire Safety	Support Staff
x						

Ownership:

FOI exemption required?	Yes	URL
	No	Reason

Legislation:

Title	The Children's Act 1989 & 2004
	The Care Act 2014, Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 & Keeping Children Safe in Education

2025

Contact:

Department	Email	Telephone ext.
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PROPOL09 Safeguarding Policy

1. Policy Introduction and Background:

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.
- To take action to enable all children and young people to have the best outcomes.

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

- Ensuring a strategic commitment at senior management level to safeguarding
- Protecting all Adults and Children at risk of harm or abuse.
- A Child and Person Centered approach to Safeguarding.
- Ensuring that roles and responsibilities of individuals and the organisation are clearly laid out.
- Create a strong multi-agency framework for safeguarding.
- Clear reporting and responding to concerns.

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
Proportionate	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
Accountable	Accountability and transparency in safeguarding practice

This Policy is also underpinned by the **Key Principles for Child Protection and Safeguarding**:

Child-Centred Practice	All Safeguarding work must place the child's safety and welfare at the centre of any decision-making
Multi-Agency Responsibility	MF&RA must collaborate effectively with Local Authorities, Health, Education, Police and Other Key Partners to work towards the most positive outcomes for children.
Early Help & Interventions	Children and Families should receive support at the earliest opportunity to reduce harm and prevent escalation.
Protecting Children from Harm	Service Instruction 0713 demonstrates MFRA commitment to all forms of maltreatment and recognises the need for robust practices to reduce and mitigate the risk.
Effective Information Sharing	MF&RA will share information in a timely, lawful and proportionate manner, particularly when there is risk of harm to a child.
Listening to the Voice of the Child	All appropriate policies will actively listen to, consult and involve children in the decision making processes that affect them. Their views, lived and living experiences and wishes will inform any assessments and actions.

**Safe Workforce
and Managing
Allegations**

MF&RA will have robust Safer Recruitment practices, appropriate training and clear processes for responding to allegations against staff or volunteers

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 MFRS in the knowledge that the matter will be treated seriously and sympathetically in accordance with this policy.

MF&RA 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 MF&RA engages.

Safeguarding:

Everyone working within MF&RA, 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 and National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) guidance.

Confidentiality:

Managers or officers cannot provide an absolute guarantee of confidentiality in all circumstances where '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 Safeguarding Officer within the Service for further guidance.

MF&RA 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 MF&RA data sharing policy.

3. Policy Implementation:

The NFCC Safeguarding Position Statement, Service Instruction 0713 and the Fire Standards Board (Safeguarding Fire Standards) have been considered as part of this Policy.

All policies can be found on the [Website](#)