

TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE (TWFRS)	
SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY	
Community Safety Policy Officer	July 2015
Admin Procedure 5.7	

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN POLICY

1 PURPOSE OF THE POLICY

- 1.1 Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority (TWFRS) is committed to safeguarding the community in accordance with our vision of 'Creating the Safest Community'.
- 1.2 TWFRS recognises that the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and young people under the age of 18 years (hereafter referred to as children or child) is everyone's responsibility. This policy establishes the responsibilities of personnel in relation to the safeguarding, promotion and protection of children with whom they come into contact with in the course of their duties.
- 1.3 This policy and the associated procedures and guidance gives clear instruction on how to report concerns and recognise abuse for personnel in relation to responding to concerns, allegations or disclosures of abuse of children.
- 1.4 This policy aims to raise awareness on safeguarding children issues and the referral routes for concerns so children at risk of abuse can be swiftly identified and incidences of abuse can be prevented or readily discovered.

2 POLICY STATEMENT

- 2.1 TWFRS recognises that the need to safeguard children in our community is everyone's responsibility.
- 2.2 The term 'personnel' refers to all employees of TWFRS whether paid or voluntary in all aspects of their work.

2.3 Within this document and associated procedures and guidance, the terms 'children', 'child' or 'young person' refers to anyone under the age of 18 years old.

2.4 Enshrined in this policy are two key principles:

- Safeguarding, promoting and protecting children from significant harm is the paramount consideration.
- All children, regardless of age, disability, gender, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, or sexual orientation have a right to protection from harm.

2.5 TWFRAs recognise many children are particularly vulnerable to abuse such as disabled children, those from minority ethnic groups, refugee and asylum seeking children and those who live with families where there are mental health, domestic violence, alcohol or drug problems.

3 RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIS POLICY

3.1 Authority for ensuring implementation and compliance with this policy rests with the Assistant Chief Officer, Community Safety (ACO, CS); the Area Manager, Community Safety (AM, CS) will ensure that this policy is complied with.

3.2 The AM, CS is also responsible for regularly reviewing this policy to ensure its currency and issuing updates.

4 CONTACTS

4.1 The Community Safety Policy Officer will act as TWFRAs Safeguarding Children advisor and as such can be contacted by personnel for advice and information on Safeguarding Adult issues.

5 RELATED INFORMATION

- TWFRAs DBS procedure
- Guidance for safe working practice for staff who work with children and young people (Admin Procedure 3.29).
- Children Act (2004).
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015).

6 REVIEW DATE

6.1 This document reflects current legislation and will be reviewed and/or revised on a 2 yearly basis or as and when appropriate.

