

# SAFEBREAKS

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## Safeguarding Adults Policy

### Safebreaks Devon CIC

#### 1. Policy Statement

Safebreaks Devon CIC is committed to **preventing harm, abuse, and neglect** and ensuring that all adults receiving support are **safe, respected, and protected** at all times. This policy aligns with the **Care Act 2014** and follows the safeguarding procedures set out by **Devon County Council (DCC)** and the **Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership (DSAP)**.

Safeguarding is a **shared responsibility** between Safebreaks Devon CIC, Devon County Council, the police, healthcare services, and other relevant agencies. We work in **partnership with local safeguarding teams** to prevent and respond to abuse, ensuring that safeguarding concerns are **reported, investigated, and addressed appropriately**.

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#### 2. Key Principles of Safeguarding Adults

Safeguarding at Safebreaks Devon CIC follows the **six principles** outlined in the Care Act 2014:

- **Empowerment** – Adults are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions.
- **Prevention** – We take proactive steps to **reduce the risk of abuse or neglect**.
- **Proportionality** – Our response to safeguarding concerns is **appropriate to the level of risk**.
- **Protection** – Those in need of safeguarding support receive **help and intervention**.
- **Partnership** – We work with **Devon County Council, the police, and other safeguarding agencies** to protect adults at risk.
- **Accountability** – Safeguarding responsibilities are **clearly defined**, and concerns are managed **transparently**.

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#### 3. Recognising Abuse and Neglect

Abuse can take many forms, including:

- **Physical abuse** – Hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, or restraint.
- **Emotional/psychological abuse** – Threats, humiliation, intimidation, or controlling behaviour.
- **Sexual abuse** – Any sexual activity without consent, including inappropriate touching.
- **Financial abuse** – Theft, fraud, misuse of benefits, or coercion over financial matters.
- **Neglect and self-neglect** – Failing to meet care needs, withholding medication, or ignoring personal hygiene.

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- **Domestic abuse** – Coercive or controlling behaviour within relationships, including forced marriage.
  - **Discriminatory abuse** – Harassment or poor treatment due to age, disability, gender, race, religion, or sexuality.
  - **Modern slavery** – Exploitation, forced labour, or human trafficking.
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## 4. Reporting a Safeguarding Concern

Safebreaks Devon CIC staff have a **legal and moral duty** to report any safeguarding concerns immediately.

### 4.1 Internal Reporting Process

- If a safeguarding concern arises, staff must **report it immediately to the Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)**  
Luke Williams: [luke.williams@safebreaks.co.uk](mailto:luke.williams@safebreaks.co.uk)  
2<sup>nd</sup> (DSL) Samuel Pritchard: [s.pritchard@safebreaks.co.uk](mailto:s.pritchard@safebreaks.co.uk)
- The DSL will assess the concern and take appropriate action, which may include referring the case to **Devon County Council's Adult Social Care team**.
- All concerns must be **recorded accurately and confidentially**.

### 4.2 External Reporting and Multi-Agency Working

- Safeguarding concerns may need to be **escalated to Devon County Council's Safeguarding Adults Team** via the **Care Direct service**.
- We will work in partnership with **Devon County Council, Devon & Cornwall Police, the NHS, and other relevant agencies** to ensure a **coordinated and effective response**.
- If a crime has been committed, the **police will be contacted immediately**.

### 4.3 How to Raise a Concern

- **Devon County Council Care Direct (Adult Social Care Team)**: 0345 155 1007
  - **Devon Safeguarding Adults Partnership (DSAP) website**: [www.devon.gov.uk](http://www.devon.gov.uk)
  - **Emergency (immediate danger)**: Call 999
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## 5. Staff Responsibilities and Training

- All staff must **complete safeguarding training** as part of their induction and ongoing development.
  - Staff are required to **know how to recognise, respond to, and report safeguarding concerns**.
  - Failure to **report a safeguarding concern** may result in disciplinary action.
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## 6. Confidentiality and Information Sharing

- Safeguarding concerns will be handled **confidentially and sensitively**.
  - Information will only be shared with relevant agencies **in line with GDPR and Devon County Council safeguarding protocols**.
  - In cases where an adult is at immediate risk, information **may be shared without consent** to ensure their safety.
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## 7. Monitoring and Review

- This policy will be **reviewed annually** and updated in line with **Devon County Council's safeguarding procedures** and national legislation.
  - Regular safeguarding audits will be conducted to ensure compliance with best practices.
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## Contact Information for Safeguarding Leads

- **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) at Safebreaks Devon CIC:** Luke Williams: [luke.williams@safebreaks.co.uk](mailto:luke.williams@safebreaks.co.uk)
- **Deputy Safeguarding Lead:** Samuel Pritchard: [s.pritchard@safebreaks.co.uk](mailto:s.pritchard@safebreaks.co.uk)
- **Devon County Council Care Direct (Adult Safeguarding):** 0345 155 1007
- **Police (Non-Emergency):** 101
- **Emergency (Immediate Risk):** 999

This policy ensures that Safebreaks Devon CIC meets **local safeguarding expectations**, works in **partnership with Devon County Council**, and complies with **national legislation**.