

## Safeguarding

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# 1 Purpose

- 1.1 The London Fire Brigade (LFB) is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare, safety, and wellbeing of:
  - Children or Young Persons (CYP); and
  - Adults at risk (any adult with care and support needs who is unable to protect themselves from abuse, neglect, harm or exploitation).
- 1.2 LFB staff frequently interact with vulnerable individuals during operational incidents, home fire safety visits, community engagement, regulatory inspection, youth programmes and other public facing activities. Through these interactions, staff may become aware of circumstances where harm is occurring, likely to occur, or could be prevented by timely intervention.
- 1.3 The purpose of this policy is to:
  - Set out LFB's statutory and moral responsibilities for safeguarding.
  - Ensure a consistent, organisation wide approach to protecting children and adults at risk.
  - Provide support in order to act confidentially, lawfully, and proportionately when safeguarding issues arise.
  - Promote early help, prevention, and multi-agency working to reduce risk and harm.
- 1.4 To aid in implementation of this policy, guidance has been provided in four separate guidance notes:
  - Safeguarding our staff
  - Safeguarding adults at risk
  - Safeguarding children and young people
  - Safeguarding children and young people on Brigade premises

# 2 Scope

- 2.1 This policy applies to all LFB employees, contractors acting on behalf of or identified as a member of the LFB and volunteers who may come into contact with members of the public or staff, whether on duty or acting in an LFB capacity.

# 3 Legal and policy framework

- 3.1 This safeguarding policy is underpinned by the following legislation, guidance and frameworks:
  - Care Act 2014
  - Mental Capacity Act 2005
  - Domestic Abuse Act 2021
  - Children Act 1989
  - Children Act 2004
  - Working together to Safeguard Children 2023
  - Children and Social Work Act 2017
- 3.2 In addition, this policy is also supported and supports the following policies and guidance notes:
  - Policy number 829 - Hoarding
  - Policy number 1036 - Anti-sexual harassment policy
  - Policy number 653 - Domestic abuse policy
  - NFCC Safeguarding Guidance for Children, Young People and Adults.
  - NFCC Safeguarding Self-Assessment Toolkit.
  - NFCC Managing Allegations Guidance.

- NFCC Positive Disclosure Risk Assessment Guidance.
- NFCC DBS Eligibility Guidance.
- Safeguarding Fire Standard.

3.3 This policy supports:

- Policy number 726 - Disclosure and barring policy
- Policy number 392 - Discipline conduct procedure
- Policy number 972 - Recruitment policy - FRS and Control
- Operational promotions guidance

## 4 Principles and safeguarding standards

### The principles of safeguarding

4.1 LFB employees, where it is appropriate, will support and encourage people to make their own decisions relating to their welfare and safety, allowing them to give informed consent.

4.2 As defined in the Care act 2014, the core principles of safeguarding are as follows:

- **Empowerment**  
Staff should support individuals to make informed decisions where possible, respecting rights, preferences and autonomy.
- **Prevention**  
Take action early to reduce risk of harm, even when thresholds for statutory intervention are not met.
- **Proportionality**  
Respond in a measured, balanced and ethical way appropriate to the level of risk.
- **Protection**  
Act immediately when individuals are in danger, or unable to protect themselves.
- **Partnership**  
Work collaboratively with local authorities, clinical care partners, families, safeguarding partners, and multi-agency boards.
- **Accountability**  
Staff must record concerns accurately, follow reporting pathways, and share information appropriately.

4.3 When dealing with concerns relating to a children or young person, the Children Act 1989/2004 set out some additional principles to be aware of:

- **The Welfare of the child is paramount**  
The needs of the child come before any organisational, parental or professional interests.
- **A child-centred approach**  
Decisions must be made with the child's voice, wishes and feelings at the centre.
- **Early help**  
Support should be offered as soon as problems emerge, not only when crisis hits.

### LFB safeguarding standards

4.4 Across all contexts, LFB staff must identify and report concerns promptly, act immediately where life, safety or wellbeing is at risk. Recording relevant information clearly, factually and without delay is paramount and the sharing of information must be done lawfully and proportionately.

- 4.5 Where needed, staff should seek advice regarding safeguarding matters from supervisors such as Station Commanders, Borough Commanders, the Officer of the Day or via an Organisational Designated Safeguarding Leads.
- 4.6 Staff should maintain appropriate boundaries at all times and ensure that personal data, safeguarding information and case records are stored and secured properly.
- 4.7 Always follow established safeguarding procedure and, where appropriate, engage with local safeguarding partnerships.
- 4.8 Always ensure that the Social Issues mailbox is copied into all safeguarding referral [correspondence.socialissues@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:correspondence.socialissues@london-fire.gov.uk).

## 5 Roles and responsibilities

- 5.1 The London Fire Brigade has an organisational designated safeguarding lead and three deputies – the Organisational Designated Safeguarding Leads (OSDL) - who are responsible for overseeing the organisation's approach to safeguarding adults and children and supporting the organisation in carrying out its safeguarding duties.
- 5.2 Regardless of the roles of the organisational designated safeguarding lead all LFB Staff and volunteers should:
- Recognise and identify signs of abuse, neglect and other safeguarding concerns.
  - Respond to and report concerns promptly in line with policy and procedure.
  - Record accurately.
  - Share information lawfully and proportionately.
- 5.3 Line managers/Senior officers:
- Support staff to raise concerns.
  - Ensure immediate safety actions.
  - Quality assure referrals and records.
- 5.4 Borough Commanders:
- Liaise with Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships (LSCPs) and safeguarding boards.
  - Engage with relevant multi-agency boards.
  - Ensure local implementation of updated safeguarding national and pan-London guidance.
  - Support learning reviews, including Serious Case Reviews and Adult Safeguarding Reviews.
  - Ensure staff understand Prevent obligations, especially signs of radicalisation or extremist risk.
- 5.5 Operational Commanders:
- Balance incident priorities with safeguarding.
  - Ensure scene-level risk mitigation (e.g. temporary safety measures).
  - Escalate concerns.
- 5.6 Organisational Designated Safeguarding Leads:
- Maintain and regularly update safeguarding policies, procedures and guidance.
  - Oversee organisational safeguarding referrals, ensuring national and London-wide best practice.
  - Chair (or deputise for the chair) the Safeguarding Board, promoting learning, monitoring performance and improvement.
  - Provide expert advice to senior leadership, operational teams and prevention specialists.

- Lead on safeguarding training, competency frameworks and continuing professional development.
- Review complex, escalated or high-risk cases involving children or adults at risk.
- Ensure effective systems for recording, managing and quality-assuring safeguarding information.

#### 5.7 Information Governance and Data Protection Teams:

- Provide guidance on lawful information sharing and restrictions.
- Oversee data protection compliance across safeguarding practice.
- Ensure secure storage, processing and destruction of safeguarding information.
- Advise staff on GDPR, UK Data Law and FOIA-related queries.
- Monitor information governance incidents involving safeguarding data.

## 6 Training

- 6.1 The London Fire Brigade has aligned its safeguarding training requirements, at a minimum, to the NFCC's Safeguarding Competency Training Framework
- 6.2 This training framework sets out the expected levels of knowledge and training, in relation to safeguarding for all staff and volunteers. Knowledge and training requirements are dependent on job roles and responsibilities

| Level of Training | Expectation                                                | Who                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Level 1           | E-learning package – mandatory<br>To be refreshed annually | For all staff<br>Completed within 4 weeks of joining LFB                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| Level 2           | Face to Face Training<br>To be refreshed every two years   | All station commanders<br>All Prevention and Protection staff<br>All ICT staff<br>Community Engagement Area Teams<br>Counselling and Trauma Services<br>Other key stakeholders                                                                                   |
| Level 3           | Face to Face training<br>To be refreshed every two years   | Deputy Assistant Commissioners<br>Assistant Commissioners<br>All group commanders<br>Prevention and Protection Safeguarding Team<br>Senior management within Community Risk Reduction<br>The Professional Standards Unit<br>HR Business Partners<br>Vetting team |

|         |                                                          |                                                                           |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Level 4 | Face to Face training<br>To be refreshed every two years | All Directors<br>Deputy Commissioners<br>Those on Brigade<br>Manager Rota |
| Level 5 | Face to Face training<br>To be refreshed every two years | Organisational Designated<br>Safeguarding Leads                           |

## 7 Mental capacity

- 7.1 Safeguarding decision-making requires careful consideration of consent, capacity, autonomy and risk. This section integrates the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005 principles, child competence standards, and the differing legal frameworks for adults and children.
- 7.2 Safeguarding concerns often involve decisions about:
- What information to share.
  - Whether the individual understands the risk.
  - Whether consent is required or can be overridden.
- 7.3 The MCA applies to adults aged 18 and over. It protects individuals who may lack capacity to make certain decisions.
- 7.4 A person lacks mental capacity if, at the specific time of the decision, they are unable to:
- Understand information relevant to the decision.
  - Retain that information long enough to decide.
  - Assess that information as part of the decision-making process.
  - Communicate their decision (using any method).
- 7.5 LFB staff should not undertake a clinical or formal capacity assessment. However, staff must make a reasonable decision about capacity based on the individual's presentation in the right here right now of the current situation.
- 7.6 If a person appears to lack capacity at that moment, LFB staff must:
- Act in the person's best interests.
  - Share essential information.
  - Raise a safeguarding concern.
  - Record the reasons for believing the individual lacked capacity.

## 8 Consent (adults)

- 8.1 Consent should be sought where possible, but lack of consent is not a barrier to raising an adult safeguarding concern where:
- The individual lacks capacity.
  - There is immediate danger including risk of death or serious harm to themselves or others.
  - A crime may have been committed.
  - There is a legal requirement to share information.
  - The individual is being coerced, controlled or intimidated.
  - It is in the public interest.

8.2 Where consent is not obtained, staff must:

- Follow safeguarding procedure.
- Record the reason(s) for the referral.
- Record the basis for overriding consent.

## **9 Consent for a child or young person (CYP), parental responsibility and competence**

9.1 A CYP cannot provide consent to any level of abuse or neglect, therefore, when safeguarding a CYP, their welfare and safety is paramount and always comes first.

9.2 Consent for a safeguarding referral should, where appropriate, be sought from the parent or carer who has a legal responsibility for the CYP.

9.3 Staff are not required to determine parental responsibility, and concerns must still be raised if it is in the best interest of the CYP.

9.4 Staff must not seek consent from a parent or carer where:

- The parent or carer may be responsible for the harm.
- Involving them increases the risk to the child.
- A child requests confidentiality for their safety.
- The situation involves sexual abuse, exploitation, radicalisation or violence.
- A child discloses risk and fears parent/carer retaliation.

## **10 Radicalisation and prevent**

10.1 Prevent is one of the four strands of CONTEST, the UK's counter-terrorism strategy.

10.2 Prevent aims to stop individuals becoming terrorists or supporting extremism, identify people vulnerable to radicalisation, provide timely intervention and safeguarding support and to promote partnerships between agencies to prevent harm.

10.3 Radicalisation is a form of exploitation. Whilst LFB is not a specified authority under the Prevent duty, safeguarding responsibilities apply. Staff should notify the police if immediate terrorist risk is suspected, follow local Prevent pathways and LFB guidance; contacting the duty National Inter-Agency Liaison Officer (NILO) via Brigade Control where immediate terrorist risk is suspected. For non-immediate concerns, staff should follow local referral routes and raise safeguarding concerns where necessary.

10.4 LFB may observe:

- Extremist literature or posters during HFSVs or regulatory fire safety inspections.
- Individuals expressing extremist views or showing signs of ideological fixation.
- Vulnerable young people at risk of grooming (such as those feeling marginalised, excluded or isolated) or exploitation by extremist groups.
- Adults being coerced, influenced or controlled by extremist networks.

## **11 Reducing and managing allegations**

11.1 All LFB staff, contractors and volunteers must ensure that they act within the confines of their role and that they abide by the LFB values at all times. Staff must not willingly place themselves in any situation where they could be the subject of an allegation of abuse or neglect.

- 11.2 In order to avoid a situation where there could be a misinterpretation that may lead to an allegation, all staff must comply with the following:
- In the event of an injury to a person at risk, ensure that a written record is made as soon as practicable and that the statement is witnessed by another member of staff or partner agency.
  - Keep a record of any allegation made against you and make the Officer of the Day aware of the allegation. Never let an allegation go unreported. Report this to the Professional Standards Unit (PSU) by emailing [psu@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:psu@london-fire.gov.uk) for the attention of the PSU Safeguarding and Vetting Lead, as soon as practicably possible.
  - Never remain alone with a vulnerable person, whether they be an adult or a CYP, unless the situation requires it – such as during a Counselling and Trauma Service therapy session.
  - Never do anything of a personal nature for a person at risk, such as accompanying an individual to the bathroom, helping them change clothes or bathing them.
  - Respect everyone by treating them courteously and with dignity at all times, irrespective of age, gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual identity or any of the nine protected characteristics as per the Equality Act 2010.
  - Never trivialise abuse or neglect of adults at risk.
- 11.3 All LFB staff and volunteers will undergo Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) checks appropriate to the level of their role and at the appropriate time. The highest-level checks will be requested for those employees or volunteers who work in a regulated activity or after a risk assessment has indicated that this level is required. Checks must be both proportionate and relevant to the position concerned.
- 11.4 Further information can be found in Policy Number 726 – Disclosure and Barring Policy and any specific vetting enquiries in relation to checks for existing staff can be directed to [DBSVetting@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:DBSVetting@london-fire.gov.uk).

## 12 Handling safeguarding data

- 12.1 The gathering, processing, storing and destruction of personal data is governed by the Data Protection law. Governance of Data Protection and GDPR is managed through LFB's Information Governance team.
- 12.2 All LFB staff must follow the advice and guidance set out in Policy number 351 - Data protection and privacy policy when handling personal data, including safeguarding information.
- 12.3 All staff must comply with policy number 0619 - LFB security classifications system.
- 12.4 All safeguarding correspondence should be marked 'OFFICIAL – SENSITIVE PERSONAL DATA' in the subject title of the email.
- 12.5 In some circumstances staff may have access to or be given highly sensitive or private information. It is important that these details are appropriately secured at all times and only shared when it is in the interests of the adult at risk to do so. If there is any doubt or uncertainty seek guidance from the Information Access Team and copy in the Social Issues [socialissues@london-fire.gov.uk](mailto:socialissues@london-fire.gov.uk).
- 12.6 All staff must comply with the Policy number 485 - ICT acceptable use policy, the safeguarding policy and the Data Protection Law at all times when using LFB's computers and data. When gathering, processing, storing and destruction of safeguarding data you must always be mindful that an adult at risk might suffer harm if safeguarding data is compromised.

## 13 Information Sharing

- 13.1 Data protection and human rights laws are not barriers to justified information sharing but provide a framework to ensure that personal information about an individual is shared appropriately.
- 13.2 Wherever possible, the best approach to information sharing is to be open and honest with the individual (and/or their family as appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be shared, and seek their agreement unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
- 13.3 Before any information is shared, all reasonable steps must be taken to ensure that the information being shared is:
- Necessary for the purpose for which it is being shared;
  - is only shared with those people who need to have it;
  - is accurate and up to date;
  - is shared in a timely manner and
  - is shared securely.

## 14 Governance, review and learning

- 14.1 Oversight of Safeguarding rests with the Organisational Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), who will oversee overall policy, strategy and chair the Safeguarding Board,
- 14.2 Governance arrangements for the Safeguarding Board will sit within Prevention and Protection, via the Principal Management Board. Oversight will be provided by Service Delivery Board chaired by no less than a Deputy Commissioner.
- 14.3 The decision making process is outlined in the Safeguarding Board's Terms of Reference.
- 14.4 Membership of the Safeguarding Board includes:

| SGB Role                                       | Role Holder                                                   |
|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chair                                          | Head of the Professional Standards Unit                       |
| Vice Chair                                     | Head of Community Risk Reduction                              |
| Secretariat                                    | Policy and Strategy Development Officer - Safeguarding        |
| Safeguarding Communities                       | Head of Risk Reduction Policy and Volunteering                |
| Safeguarding Staff                             | PSU Safeguarding and Vetting Lead                             |
| Prevention & Protection                        | Senior Policy and Strategy Development Officer – Safeguarding |
| Operational Resilience and Control             | DAC Control                                                   |
| Vetting                                        | Vetting Manager                                               |
| People Services                                | Head of Recruitment                                           |
| Information and Communication Technology (ICT) | ICT Business Systems Improvement Manager                      |
| Counselling and Wellbeing                      | Head of Counselling and Trauma Service                        |
| Mental Health First Aiders (MHFA)              | MHFA & Trauma Team Lead                                       |
| Fire Stations                                  | DAC Fire Stations                                             |
| Training & Development                         | DAC Learning and Professional Development                     |

- 14.5 Policy oversight rests with the Organisational DSL and will be supported by the Prevention Policy Group within Prevention and Protection.
- 14.6 This policy will be reviewed annually (or sooner) to incorporate legislative changes, NFCC Guidance, Pan-London procedure updates and learning themes.
- 14.7 Overall governance of this policy rests with the Safeguarding Board, chaired by the Organisational DSL.

## Appendix 1 - Legislation

### Children's legislation and guidance

- Children Act 1989 & 2004
- Working Together to Safeguard Children 2023
- London Safeguarding Children Procedures
- Statutory guidance on information sharing (children)
- Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 (as amended)
- Children and Social Work Act 2017
- Birth Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) Ethical Framework (2018)

Children's social care has a legal duty to make enquiries when there is reasonable cause to suspect a child is at risk of or suffering significant harm.

### Adults' legislation and guidance

- Care Act 2014
- Care and Support Statutory Guidance
- Mental Capacity Act 2005 (including the Code of Practice)
- Domestic Abuse Act 2021

The Care Act places responsibilities on partners, including fire and rescue services, to support prevention, early intervention, and coordinated safeguarding responses for adults with care and support needs.

### Cross-Cutting legislation

- Data Protection Law (UK GDPR and Data Protection Act)
- Human Rights Act 1998
- Equality Act 2010
- Counter-Terrorism & Security Act 2015 (Prevent Duty Guidance)
- Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004, Section 11 (public safety duties)

## Appendix 2 - Key definitions

### Child or young person

As defined in the Children Act 2004, a child or young person (CYP) is "a person who has not yet reached their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday".

Regardless of living circumstances, marital status, or independence, anyone under the age of 18 is considered a child or young person in relation to safeguarding.

A CYP is considered at risk when:

- They are suffering or are likely to suffer significant harm.
- Their health or development may be significantly impaired without intervention.
- Their immediate environment presents a clear risk to safety or wellbeing.
- Concerns arise during LFB interactions with adults, where a child resides or is present.
- Significant harm includes ill-treatment or impairment of health and development caused by abuse or neglect.
- Under 18 years of age.
- A person whose health or development is likely to be significantly impaired without the provision of services.

### Significant harm and child protection

Where there is reasonable cause to suspect a child is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, local authority children's social care must make enquiries and decide what action is required to safeguard or promote the child's welfare.

### Adult at risk

The Care Act 2014 defines an adult as 'a person 18 years of over'.

An adult at risk is any person aged 18 or over who:

- Has needs for care and support (regardless of whether these needs are being met),
- Is experiencing or at risk of abuse, harm, neglect, or self-neglect, and
- Because of these needs, is unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation.

An adult may be at heightened risk due to:

- Physical or mental health
- Learning disabilities
- Cognitive impairment (including dementia)
- Social isolation
- Substance use
- Unsuitable accommodation or poor living conditions
- Lack of support networks
- Advanced age

## Appendix 3 - Types of abuse and neglect

The Care Act sets out varying types and patterns of abuse and neglect and the different circumstances in which they may take place.

The categories may overlap, and an abused adult may experience more than one type of abuse. Also, there may not always be clear evidence of abuse or neglect, so some referrals may be based on inference.

There are ten categories of abuse described within the Care and Support Statutory Guidance. These are:

**Discriminatory abuse** – including forms of harassment, slurs, or similar treatment because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

**Domestic abuse** – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse or coercive control; so, called 'honour' based violence.

**Financial or material abuse** – including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions, or benefits.

**Modern slavery** – encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

**Neglect and acts of omission** – including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services or the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.

**Organisational abuse** – including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

**Physical abuse** – including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate physical sanctions.

**Self-neglect** – covers a wide range of behaviours, including neglecting personal hygiene, health or surroundings, such as hoarding behaviour. It can occur as a result of mental health issues, personality disorders, substance abuse, dementia, advancing of age, social isolation, and cognitive impairment or through personal choice.

Self-neglect also includes hoarding. *Hoarding disorder* is a mental health condition whereby the individual has persistent difficulty discarding or parting with possessions, regardless of their actual value.

**Sexual abuse** – including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

**Sexual exploitation** – Involves exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where adults at risk (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, affection, gifts, money) in exchange for performing sexual activities, and/or having sexual activities performed on them. Whilst more prevalent amongst women, Sexual Exploitation affects all genders. People who are sexually exploited may not always recognise that they are being exploited. Signs to watch for include the inability to speak to the adult alone, the adult seeking approval from the exploiter to respond, and the exploiter answering for them and making decisions without consulting them.

**Psychological abuse** – including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.

This list is not exhaustive, and there are further types of abuse or neglect that LFB staff need to be aware of. Some examples from the London Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures include:

**Female genital mutilation (FGM)** – involves procedures that intentionally alter or injure female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The procedure has no health benefits for girls and women. The Female Genital Mutilation Act (2004) makes it illegal to practise FGM in the UK or to take girls who are British nationals or permanent residents of the UK abroad for FGM whether or not it is lawful in the country of travel. Further information on safeguarding women and girls at risk of FGM is available via this link.

**Forced marriage** – a marriage where one or both of the parties are married without their consent or against their will. It differs from arranged marriage, where both parties consent to the assistance of a third party in finding a spouse.

**Mate crime** – This occurs when vulnerable individuals are befriended by community members who later exploit and take advantage of them. Mate crime typically occurs in private and is perpetrated by someone known to the adult. Several Safeguarding Adult Reviews have highlighted instances where individuals with learning disabilities were harmed by individuals who claimed to be their friends

**Cuckooing** - is a form of criminal exploitation where criminals take over a person's home and use it to facilitate exploitation, most commonly to store, deal or distribute drugs. It may also involve the property being used for sex work, storing weapons, housing others, or financially abusing the tenant.

## Appendix 4 - Prevent: Counter-Terrorism strategy

### Overview

Prevent forms part of "CONTEST", the UK Strategy for Countering Terrorism which consists of four strands: **Pursue, Prevent, Protect, Prepare**.

Prevent primarily aims to reduce the threat of terrorism by placing preventative measures across agencies to support and divert people vulnerable to radicalisation. This Strategy became a statutory duty in 2015 and, although we are not subject to the statutory duty, our wider prevention role and interaction with communities make us valuable partners in preventing terrorism.

### Why is it relevant to the LFB?

Staff may come across indications of terrorist activities whilst conducting Home Fire Safety Visits (HFSVs) or carrying out inspections in a range of commercial and domestic buildings. This may include leaflets, books or posters supporting or encouraging radical views e.g. Right Wing, Islamist extremism.

There could also be a role in the engagement of individuals – particularly in **offering diversionary activities to vulnerable young people through LFB Youth Engagement Programmes**. Indeed, such programmes can represent a powerful tool to understand, prevent and overcome youth marginalisation and consequently, safeguard vulnerable individuals from the threat of radicalisation.

### What should staff do to comply with Prevent?

All staff need to be aware of where, how and to whom report concerns related to threat of radicalisation and/or terrorist activities.

Prevent is closely linked to Safeguarding legislation, as radicalisation is considered a form of exploitation and therefore concerns should be raised as detailed in LFB Safeguarding policies. However, should suspicions about any immediate terrorist risk/threat to the public be raised at any time, staff should contact the duty national inter-agency liaison officer (NILO) via Brigade Control. Staff can also contact the Anti-Terrorism Hotline on 0800 789 321 but must inform the duty NILO if they have done so.

Borough Commanders are advised to check with their local authority community safety partnerships or safeguarding boards to confirm the referral path available in their area and the appropriate protocols used for sharing of information.

All station-based staff should complete the Home Made Explosives Awareness Ad Hoc training entry in the Station Diary.

LFB Youth Engagement Programmes offer a range of activities which are powerful tools to understand, prevent and overcome youth marginalisation, hence safeguarding vulnerable individuals from radicalisation.

Managers should make their staff aware of the need to recognise and report concerns around radicalisation of people and places used to support terrorist activities. They should be aware of staff's changes in attitude and/or behaviour which may be represented as part of a spectrum which ranges from mild interest through "obsession" to "fanaticism" and "extremism" and also unusual access or attempts to gain access to sensitive information outside of the need of their role.

## Document history

### Assessments

An equality, sustainability or health, safety and welfare impact assessment and/or a risk assessment was last completed on:

|     |          |      |              |       |          |    |     |
|-----|----------|------|--------------|-------|----------|----|-----|
| EIA | 27/08/26 | SDIA | L – 03/09/26 | HSWIA | 03/09/26 | RA | N/A |
|-----|----------|------|--------------|-------|----------|----|-----|

### Audit trail

Listed below is a brief audit trail, detailing amendments made to this policy/procedure.

| Page/para nos. | Brief description of change | Date |
|----------------|-----------------------------|------|
|                |                             |      |
|                |                             |      |
|                |                             |      |
|                |                             |      |
|                |                             |      |

### Subject list

You can find this policy under the following subjects.

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### Freedom of Information Act exemptions

This policy/procedure has been securely marked due to:

| Considered by:<br>(responsible work team) | FOIA exemption | Security marking<br>classification |
|-------------------------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|
|                                           |                |                                    |
|                                           |                |                                    |
|                                           |                |                                    |