Safeguarding People Experiencing Homelessness

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What is social housing?

- **Known as ‘Registered Providers’**
- **Exist alongside Local Authority Housing**
- **Regulator of Social Housing**
- **Funded by rent and Local Authority funding**
- **Legal duty to house via LA waiting lists**
- **Duty to safeguard (S.11 and S.42)**

Great Place Housing Group

- 24,000 homes across the Northwest and Yorkshire
- Provide a wide-range of services – accommodation and support
- Promote partnership work to create vibrant, sustainable communities
- Develop new homes, for rent, affordable home ownership and outright sale
- Profit for Purpose

Our Homelessness Services

- We have a range of services that support people who are experiencing homelessness including people rough sleeping, sofa surfing and in temp accommodation
- Our young people services support young people with experience of being in the care system, young parents and young people who have found themselves homeless due to many different reasons such as family breakdown
- Supported housing which is accommodation for people who are homeless where safe secure accommodation is provided with holistic support and support to move on into permanent accommodation
- Housing led services and Housing First
- Specialist women's services

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Our Model

- Our approach is based upon recognising that people are experts in their own lives
- Person centered and strength based
- Promote independence with choice and control
- Harm reduction

Learning from safe guarding Adult Reviews (SAR’s)

- People experience additional vulnerabilities and trauma when homeless
- They are more exposed to risks from others
- It is only recently that SAR's have been used for people sleeping rough and there is currenlty 48 to date.

Safeguarding People who are Homeless

- Lack of engagement is often used as a reason for not completing assessments
- Absence of consideration around additional vulnerabilities
- Choice being a misunderstanding eg a woman refuses temp accommodation due to feeling unsafe and previous experience and not because sleeping out is an actual lifestyle choice.
- Capacity

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Good Practice and Overcoming Barriers

- Ensure the person is fully involved and understands what safeguarding is,
  it's not about removing choices and liberty, team around me approach
- Build relationships and trust
- Always encourage MDT's, collaboration is key
- Use the language used in legislation to help
- Supporting staff effectively
- Do not presume others will have made a safeguarding alert, do not be afraid to keep updating
- Be creative with solutions

Tip of the Iceberg

If you say that a problem is the tip of the iceberg, you mean that it is one small part of a much larger problem.

Billy’s Story

Summary

- **Housing providers:**
  - **Are skilled in safeguarding**
  - **Hold useful information**
  - **Can provide early help and intervention support**
  - **Experienced in multi-agency working**
  - **Think ‘housing’**
  - **Remember - more than just a roof**

Thank You