Title: **VALLEY PROVINCIAL LTD SAFEGUARDING POLICY**

This policy seeks to ensure that Valley Provincial Ltd undertakes its responsibilities with regard to protection of children and/or vulnerable adults and will respond to concerns appropriately. The policy establishes a framework to support staff in their practices and clarifies the organisation's expectations.

Staff who undertake maintenance and installations in schools and other educational establishments, community centres, parks and public spaces may come into contact with children or vulnerable adults during the course of their employment with Valley Provincial Ltd.

All staff have responsibility to follow the guidance laid out in this policy and related policies, and to pass on any welfare concerns using the required procedures.

We expect all staff (paid or unpaid) to promote good practice by being an excellent role model, contribute to discussions about safeguarding and to positively involve people in developing safe practices.

In line with our Equal Opportunities Statement this policy aims to afford protection to all young people and vulnerable adults regardless of age, disability, gender, racial heritage, religious belief, sexual orientation or identity.

Legislation

The principal pieces of legislation governing this policy are: The Children Act 1989, The Education Act 2002, The Children Act 2004, The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006. The Children & Young Persons Act 2008, Working together to safeguard Children 2023.

Definitions

Safeguarding is about embedding practices throughout the organisation to ensure the protection of children and/or vulnerable adults wherever possible.

Abuse is a selfish act of oppression and injustice, exploitation, and manipulation of power by those in a position of authority. This can be caused by those inflicting harm or those who fail to act to prevent harm.

Abuse is not restricted to any socio-economic group, gender, or culture. It can take a number of forms, including the following: physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, bullying, neglect, financial (or material) abuse.

A child is under the age of 18 (as defined in the United Nations convention on the Rights of a Child).

A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 years or over who may be unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves from harm or from being exploited. This may include a person who: has a mental illness including dementia; has a physical or sensory disability; has a learning disability; has a severe physical illness; is a substance misuser; is homeless.

The company is Valley Provincial Ltd hereinafter called 'the company'

Scope

The scope of this Safeguarding Policy is broad-ranging and in practice it will be implemented via a range of policies and procedures within the organisation. These include:

1. Data Barring Service checks - the company commits resources to providing DBS checks on staff whose roles involve contact with children and vulnerable adults.
2. Safe recruiting - the company ensures safe recruitment through its established procedures.
3. Subcontractor management - the company carries out monitoring on subcontractors to ensure compliance.

Implementation

The company commits itself to communication and support for staff who have concerns regarding safeguarding.

Raising and reporting safeguarding concerns should be carried out via discussion with any one of the Directors: Peter Alexander, Steve Lyon, Gavin Sims, Paul Brown, Jonathan Alexander, James Lyon. This should be followed up with a written record of your concerns.

The company recognises its legal duty to report any concerns about unsafe practice by any of its staff to the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA), according to the ISA referral guidance document

Referral Guidance and Form FINAL v 10-01.pub

All staff must be aware that they have a professional duty to share information with other agencies in order to safeguard children and vulnerable adults. The public interest in safeguarding children and vulnerable adults may override confidentiality interests. However, information will be shared on a need-to-know basis only, as judged by the Designated Senior Member.

All staff must be aware that they cannot promise service users or their families/carers that they will keep secrets.

Monitoring and review

All aspects of this policy are to be reviewed annually.

Signed: Paul Brown _____

Paul Brown, Managing Director

Date: 16.12.2024 _____

Review date: 16.12.2025 _____