

Title of Standard	Safeguarding		
Business Area/Capability	Service Delivery		
Sponsoring NFCC Committee	Prevention		
Date of approval	[for office use]	Date of Issue	[for office use]
Reference Number	[for office use]	Review Date	[for office use]
Desired Outcome			
<p>A fire and rescue service that proactively responds and reduces the risk of abuse, harm and neglect to those who are the most vulnerable in its community and also those inside its own organisation. One that is compliant with safeguarding legislation, understanding and effectively fulfilling its obligations and responsibilities to its Local Safeguarding Adults and Children’s Board.</p> <p>A service whose employees are trained, supported and empowered to respond to safeguarding needs and holds appropriate qualification of employees.</p> <p>A service that collaborates appropriately with others to ensure a coordinated approach to safeguarding in its area.</p>			
To achieve the Fire Standard			
<p>A fire and rescue service must:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. comply with safeguarding legislation and guidance; 2. have a named and accountable strategic lead for safeguarding, responsible for ensuring: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. the service is and remains compliant with legislation and follows relevant guidance; b. the service’s Designated Safeguarding Leads or Head of Safeguarding, where applicable, are appropriately qualified in accordance with legislation and the requirement of Local Safeguarding Adults and Children’s Boards; 3. have those who provide safeguarding training appropriately accredited to train; 4. educate, train and support employees, relevant to their role, in the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk; 5. align local training to the NFCC’s Safeguarding Guidance for Children, Young People and Adults; 6. implement appropriate and proportionate processes that minimise the risk of employing people who may be unsuitable to work with those who are vulnerable; 7. work effectively with others to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk; 8. maintain effective and efficient two-way information sharing arrangements to ensure data that relates to those who are vulnerable is available to those who need it; 			

9. demonstrate inclusivity by recognising the diversity of its community and providing equality of access.

A fire and rescue service **should**:

1. Use the NFCC Self-Assessment Toolkit and guidance
2. contribute to the continual improvement of safeguarding adults and children at risk by communicating, sharing learning and experiences with the NFCC network of fire and rescue service safeguarding leads through:
 - a. engaging with NFCC forums;
 - b. supporting the NFCC Safeguarding Workstream through national and regional structures; and
 - c. considering appropriate representation at relevant national events and conferences.

Expected benefits of the achieving the Fire Standard

1. Improved safeguarding outcomes for communities and employees evidenced by:
 - a. measurable safeguarding referrals that encompass both early identification and threshold assessments before referral to Local Authorities
 - b. an increase in referrals due to raised awareness.
 - c. an increase in the number of employees and volunteers trained in safeguarding.
2. Fire and rescue services become trusted and reliable partners to Local Authorities, statutory agencies and universal services.
3. Increased numbers of vulnerable community members living safely because safeguarding risks are identified and responded to sooner.

Legal requirements or mandatory duties

- Fire and Rescue Services Act
- The Care Act
- The Children’s Act
- Working Together to Safeguard Children

Linked qualifications, accreditations or Fire Standards

- Prevention Fire Standards
- Code of Ethics Fire Standard
- Protection Fire Standard
- Community Risk Management Planning Fire Standard
- Operational Competence Fire Standard
- Operational Learning Fire Standard
- Operational Preparedness Fire Standard

Guidance and supporting information

- NFCC Safeguarding Guidance for Children, Young People and Adults
- NFCC Person Centred Framework

- NFCC CPD accredited safeguarding 'train the trainer' course

Note: Please contact the Fire Standards team within the NFCC CPO for any queries or support with regards to the use or completion of this template contact@firestandards.org.uk