

Safeguarding on Rail Policy Statement

The business is committed to promoting 'safeguarding' initiatives, either directly with the British Transport Police (BTP) or other designated partner agencies. The business will support workstreams by promoting best practice in safeguarding initiatives and raising awareness to help develop a consistent response when any member of rail staff is presented with a vulnerable person or persons.

A person is to be considered vulnerable if, as a result of their situation or circumstances, they are unable to take care of, or protect themselves, or others from harm or exploitation.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and the rail industry has a vital role to play in protecting vulnerable children and adults. To this end, the policy embodies a multiagency approach, recognising that an effective response to vulnerability can only be achieved through collaborative working between industry, voluntary and statutory partners.

Safeguarding activity includes identifying those who are vulnerable as soon as practicable; assessing the level of risk and taking appropriate subsequent action; working with partners to reduce and mitigate risks; helping to protect and support them; keeping them safe and stopping any repeat victimisation or escalation.

Safeguarding will be achieved by taking proportionate and reasonable steps to enable early intervention. The strategy is underpinned by four core principles:

- preventing harm to people;
- reducing the likelihood of harm to people;
- promoting the values of safeguarding to our staff by raising awareness of safeguarding priorities; and
- mitigating the impact of harm by reporting safeguarding concerns to statutory or other bodies, who can facilitate access to pathways that provide help and support.

These core principles are underpinned by the delivery of measures identified within the supporting policy document and cover all areas and forms of vulnerability, including that of sexual harassment.

Application of these measures also supports the Safer Railway Scheme (SRS), which is a national scheme which covers all rail networks that are policed by the British Transport Police (BTP) with the ultimate objective of improving the railway industry's understanding of, and response to, dealing with vulnerable people.

I will ensure that we deliver this policy by supporting it through my own personal example and that of my fellow Directors. I will ensure that we devote the necessary resources to enable us to deliver this policy.

David Horne
Managing Director

