



partnership communities order  
identifying support enquiry  
needs care act ensure  
prevent abuse adult who over  
adults where  
**safeguarding**  
local abuse risk  
between authority  
health neglect individuals  
promote live appropriate matter



# Safeguarding Adults

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The Care Act 2014<sup>1</sup> sets out statutory responsibility for the integration of care and support between health and local authorities. NHS England, Clinical Commissioning Groups are working in partnership with local and neighbouring social care services. The Local Authority has statutory responsibility for safeguarding. In partnership with health demonstrate all reasonable requirements for healthcare, including the principles to promote wellbeing within local communities.

## What is adult safeguarding and why it matters<sup>2</sup>

Adult safeguarding means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. The Care Act requires that each local authority must:

- Make enquiries, or ensure others do so, if it believes an adult is, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
- An enquiry should establish whether any action needs to be taken to stop prevent abuse or neglect, and if so,

- Set up a Safeguarding Adults Board
- Arrange, where appropriate, for an independent advocate to represent and support an adult who is the subject of a safeguarding enquiry
- Or Safeguarding Adult Review where the adult has 'substantial difficulty' in being involved in the process and where there is no other appropriate adult to help them
- Cooperate with each of its relevant partners in order to protect adults experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect.

An adult at risk is any person who is aged 18 years or over and at risk of abuse or neglect because of their needs for care and support. Where someone is over 18 but still receiving children's services and a safeguarding issue is raised, the matter should be dealt with as a matter of course by the adult safeguarding team.

## The Care Act 2014

### The aims of adult safeguarding are:

- To prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs
- To safeguard individuals in a way that supports them in making choices and having control in how they choose to live their lives
- To promote an outcomes approach in safeguarding that works for people resulting in the best experience possible
- To raise public awareness so that professionals, other staff and communities as a whole play their part in preventing, identifying and identifying and responding to abuse and neglect.

### In order to achieve these aims, it is necessary:

- To ensure that the roles and responsibilities of individuals and organisations are clearly laid out.
- To create a strong multi-agency framework for safeguarding.
- To enable access to mainstream community safety measures.
- To clarify the interface between safeguarding and quality of service provision.

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# Your Responsibilities

## Safeguarding adults

All staff within health services have a responsibility for the safety and wellbeing of patients and colleagues.

Living a life that is free from harm and abuse is a fundamental human right of every person and an essential requirement for health and well-being.

Safeguarding adults is about the safety and well-being of all patients but providing additional measures for those least able to protect themselves from harm or abuse.

Safeguarding adults is a fundamental part of patient safety and wellbeing and the outcomes expected of the NHS. Safeguarding adults is also integral to complying with legislation, regulations and delivering cost effective care.

These cards should be used by you as a guide should you have a safeguarding concern and should always be used alongside your organisations safeguarding policy and procedures.

### Definition of a vulnerable adult:

Aged 18 years or over;  
Who may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and

who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation

NB: Throughout this publication we have used the term 'patient' to refer to patients and clients.

## Your responsibilities when you have safeguarding concerns:

- Assess the situation i.e. are emergency services required?
- Ensure the safety and wellbeing of the individual
- Establish what the individual's views and wishes are about the safeguarding issue and procedure
- Maintain any evidence
- Follow internal procedures for reporting incidents/risks
- Remain calm and try not to show any shock or disbelief
- Listen carefully and demonstrate understanding by acknowledging regret and concern that this has happened
- Inform the person that you are required to share the information, explaining what information will be shared and why

## Your Responsibilities

- Make a written record of what the person has told you, using their words or what you have seen as well as your actions.

### Duty of care:

You have a duty of care to your patients/service users, your colleagues, your employer, yourself and the public interest. Everyone has a duty of care – it is not something that you can opt out of.

The Health Professions Council standards state:

...a person who is capable of giving their consent has the right to refuse treatment. You must respect this right. You must also make sure they are fully aware of the risk of refusing treatment, particularly if you think there is a significant or immediate risk to life.'

Duty of care can be said to have reasonably been met where an objective group of professional considers.

- All reasonable steps have been taken
- Reliable assessment methods have been used
- Information has been collated and thoroughly evaluated
- Decisions are recorded, communicated and thoroughly evaluated

- Policies and procedures have been followed
- Practitioners and managers should seek to ascertain the facts and are proactive.

You should always treat every individual with dignity and respect to ensure that they feel safe in services and empowered to make choices and decisions.

Ensure that significant others, i.e family member, friend or advocate, are involved to support the individual where appropriate.

However it is important to recognise that though an individual with capacity has the right to refuse care for themselves, the duty of care extends to considering where others may be at risk and action is needed to protect them.

### **You have the responsibility to follow the 6 safeguarding principles enshrined within the Care Act 2014:**

Six key principles underpin all adult safeguarding work:

*Continued over...*

