

ADULT SAFEGUARDING GUIDANCE

Fact Sheet



WHY DO WE NEED TO SAFEGUARD ADULTS AT RISK?

- Everyone has the right to live their life free from violence, fear and abuse.
- All adults have the right to be protected from harm and exploitation.
- All adults have the right to independence, which involves a degree of risk.
- Some people do not enjoy, or are not granted these fundamental rights.
- Every day adults at risk will suffer some sort of abuse.

We all need to know what the abuse is, how we can recognise it and what our role is in safeguarding. We are all responsible for Safeguarding Adults at Risk.

WHICH ADULTS ARE AT RISK?

People aged 18 or over who may:

- Rely on other people or services for care and support with day to day tasks, because of their age, dementia, physical or learning disability, mental health need or substance use
- Lack mental capacity
- Not be able to speak up for themselves
- Neglect themselves and/or their home

A person who has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs) and is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs, is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it. (Care Act 2014 definition)

ADULTS AT RISK CAN BE:

- Physically abused
- Psychologically abused
- Financially abused
- Sexually abused
- Organisational abuse
- Discriminated against
- Neglected or self-neglect

ABUSE CAN TAKE MANY FORMS SUCH AS:

- Shouting or swearing, which makes a person fearful
- Hitting, slapping or pushing
- Unwanted touching, kissing, or sexual intercourse or sexual contact to which a person cannot consent
- Not being cared for properly or denied privacy, choice or social contact
- Money or property taken without permission or under pressure
- Pressure to sign over money, property, or financial transactions, to which a person cannot consent
- Domestic abuse, which includes incidents of violence, controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, honour based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- Modern Slavery, encompassing human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude
- Organisational abuse, including neglect and poor practice within an institution, i.e. hospitals, residential and domiciliary care providers

WHAT CAN WE DO TO SAFEGUARD ADULTS AT RISK?

- Anyone who is in contact with, or who has knowledge of an adult at risk and has concerns about their safety or well-being can raise a safeguarding concern
- Raise a concern, suspicion or allegation of potential abuse or neglect
- Without raising concerns we cannot STOP abuse
- Everyone can raise a concern, if you see or hear abuse happening, or are told about the abuse or suspect it may be happening
- The responsibility for all is to pass on concerns or suspicions to their manager as soon as possible or to contact Plymouth City Council, by telephone on 01752 668000 or via the online referral form (see below) to report the concern

WHAT ARE YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES?

- Record what the person actually said
- Make sure information is factual
- Describe the circumstances
- If appropriate describe the injuries and complete a body map
- Write your report, sign and date it, noting time it happened and time you were told and the location
- Pass your report to your manager immediately

SOME POINTS TO REMEMBER

- You are not being asked to investigate, or to judge whether what you are told is true
- Listen carefully, do not stop someone from telling you, or press for more details
- Preserve evidence where appropriate i.e. clothing
- Explain to the person you have to inform your Manager, do not promise to keep secrets
- When a concern is raised, but the person doesn't wish you to follow this up, record this, you or your manager must still raise the concern
- Do not comment, gossip about or pass the information to anyone who does not need to know
- Do not contact the person alleged responsible for abuse
- Do not contact the person's family

HOW CAN I RAISE A CONCERN?

If you see or hear something happen that could be abuse, or if someone tells you something has happened or is happening to them which could be abuse - **contact Plymouth City Council on 01752 668000 or make an online referral at <http://www.plymouth.gov.uk/adultcareandhealth/reportadultabuseorneglect>** .

If a crime has been committed, you may also contact Devon and Cornwall Police on **101**. You should only dial **999** for an emergency response is required, i.e. when a crime is in progress, or someone's life is at risk, violence or serious illness or injury.

REFERENCES

The Care Act 2014 provides new legislation, duties and guidance regarding safeguarding adults from April 2015.

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

Revised 2016 Care Act guidance

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance>

This is summary guidance only it is important that you refer to the online safeguarding procedures for full information.

<http://plysab.proceduresonline.com/>