

Self-neglect and hoarding summary guidance

<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/kqekkobm/sn-and-hoarding-policy-v5-formatted-20231228-copy.pdf> (Full guidance)

This guidance is to support you to find the relevant sections in the policy document, it is not intended to replace the policy which includes practitioner guidance and tools to support person centred work.

The principles of the policy: -

- The risks to the adult or others are significant (based on scoring tools for both self-neglect and hoarding)
- There are no immediate concerns that the adult lacks capacity to make the decisions resulting in the risk. If the adult has dementia, learning disabilities etc it may be necessary to use the Mental Capacity Act to assess their capacity to make the decision(s) causing concern. All workers can assess capacity if they have the knowledge of the decision in question, e.g. – diabetes management can be completed by GP, nurse, diabetes specialist etc.
- Single agency attempts to resolve the issues have not reduced the risks or attempts to engage them have failed.
- Multi-agency working to manage the risks (inside or outside a safeguarding (s42) enquiry) is required.
- Provides an evaluation tool to enable a risk-based assessment to enable exit from the multi-agency response, this should be approved by a senior manager.

Process

- Score the risks using appendix one and two. (See pages 26- 35 – self neglect assessment tool and page 36- 38 for clutter ratings). Anyone can score the risks. Multiple risk assessments may assist the development of a robust risk management plan.
- Discuss your concerns with the adult and establish their views (see pages 4 – 11)
- Does the adult have any insight into the risks? (See pages 5 – 9 and appendix 1 and 4)
- where necessary, submit a safeguarding adult concern form (<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/18540/adult-safeguarding-concern-form.docx>)
- If a multi-agency response is required, but the case does not meet the threshold for a safeguarding enquiry, all relevant organisations must agree who will coordinate a meeting using the principles of information sharing (see pages 11 - 12)
- If at any time concerns are identified about the adult's capacity, an appropriate assessment should be completed (see pages 7 – 8 and appendix 4). If the adult lacks capacity, the process should be exited, and the Mental Capacity Act used to make decisions in their best interests.

- Notify senior managers of high-risk cases being managed in line with the policy, especially if partners are not working in line with the policy (see pages 11 and 20)
- Consider use of legal and other powers if the adult will not engage with the process (see pages 16-18 and appendix 3)
- Continue to evaluate the impact of the actions taken on the risks to the adult and commit to work with the adult until the risks are reduced and the multi-agency self-neglect/hoarding case can be exited. (See pages 10-11 and appendix 8)