



# **Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board**

## **Protocol for responding to concerns about a person in a position of trust (PiPoT)**

**Responsibilities, guidance, and procedure for all  
BSAB partner agencies and their contracted service  
providers**

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Responsibilities, guidance and procedure for all Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board partner agencies and their contracted service providers.

## **1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 It is a requirement of the Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance that Safeguarding Adults Boards should establish and agree a framework and process for any organisation to respond to allegations against anyone who works, (in either a paid or an unpaid capacity,) with adults with care and support needs. In this document this framework and process is referred to as the "Protocol".
- 1.2 This Protocol applies to all partner agencies of Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board (BSAB), and organisations commissioned to provide services by them, so they respond appropriately to allegations against people who, whether an employee, volunteer or student, paid or unpaid, works with or cares for adults with care and support needs. These individuals are known as People in a Position of Trust (PiPoT) for the purpose of this policy.
- 1.3 BSAB requires its partner agencies to be individually responsible for ensuring they adopt the principles of this Protocol and maintain clear organisational procedures for dealing with PiPoT concerns.
- 1.4 BSAB also requires partner agencies and the service providers they commission to identify a designated PiPoT lead or contact to oversee the delivery of responsibilities in their organisation.
- 1.5 Partner agencies and the service providers they commission are individually responsible for ensuring that information relating to PiPoT concerns are shared and escalated outside of their organisation in circumstances where this is required, proportionate and appropriate. They are responsible for making the judgment that this is the case in each instance where they are the data controller.
- 1.6 This Protocol is designed to inform and support the decision-making processes of partner agencies and their commissioned services once they become aware of a PiPoT concern arising from whatever source.

- 1.7 Each partner agency, in their quarterly assurance statement to the BSAB, will be required to provide assurance that the PiPoT arrangements within their organisation are functioning effectively. The BSAB will in turn maintain oversight of whether these arrangements are working effectively between and across partner agencies in the borough. Appropriate cross-organisational challenge is an important part of this.
- 1.8 The Care Act 2014 Guidance also requires that partner agencies and their commissioned services should have clear recording and information-sharing guidance, set explicit timescales for action and are aware of the need to preserve evidence.
- 1.9 This Protocol applies whether the allegation relates to a current or an historical concern.
- 1.10 The BSAB partner agency (or organisation commissioned by them to provide a service) who first identifies or becomes aware of an allegation or concern will be the Primary Data Controller, or the "owner" of the information, and will have first responsibility for responding in accordance with this Protocol.
- 1.11 This Protocol should be read in conjunction with South Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Policy 1.12  
<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/20397/reviewed-sy-sa-principles-v-94-november-2021.pdf>  
The Protocol is designed to ensure that if information is shared or disclosed it is done so in accordance with the law and in such a way that allows appropriate and proportionate enquiries to be made that protects adults with and maintains public confidence in services.
- 1.13 This Protocol is not a substitute for, but may be used in conjunction with, other formal legal processes; for example, Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), Multi-agency public protection arrangements (MAPPA) etc.

## **2. SCOPE**

- 2.1 This Protocol must be followed in all cases by the organisation which first becomes aware of a concern, where information (whether current or historical) is identified in connection with:
  - 2.1.1 The PiPoT's own work / voluntary activity with adults and / or Children (for example where a worker or volunteer has been accused of the abuse or neglect of an adult with care and support needs or a child).
  - 2.1.2 The PiPoT's life outside work i.e., concerning adults with care and support needs in the family or social circle (for example where a son

is accused of abusing his older mother and he also works as a domiciliary care worker with adults with care and support needs. Or where a woman is convicted of grievous bodily harm and works in a residential home for people with learning disabilities).

2.1.3 The PiPoT's life outside work i.e., concerning risks to children, whether the individual's own children or other children (for example where a woman is employed in a day centre for people with learning disabilities, but her own children are subject to child protection procedures because of emotional abuse and neglect).

**And** the person has:

2.1.4 Behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed an adult with care and support needs.

2.1.5 Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to an adult with care and support needs.

2.1.6 Behaved towards an adult with care and support needs in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with adults with care and support needs.

2.1.7 Behaved in a way that has harmed children or may have harmed children which means their ability to provide a service to adults with care and support needs must be reviewed.

2.1.8 May be subject to abuse themselves and consequently means their ability to provide a service to adults with care and support needs must be reviewed.

2.1.9 Behaved in a way which questions their ability to provide a service to an adult with care and support needs which must be reviewed e.g., conviction for grievous bodily harm against someone who is not an adult with care and support needs.

2.2 **Children** - whilst this Protocol is concerned with potential harm to adults with care and support needs, if the allegation is such that there is a concern that the person may also pose a risk to children, then Children's Services must be informed. It is everyone's duty to refer to any current and historical allegations of abuse against children to Children's Services, whether the alleged perpetrator is a PiPoT or not. Concerns about children should be referred to Barnsley Children's Social Care on 01226 774243 or 438830.

### **3. HOW MIGHT A CONCERN ABOUT A PIPOT BE IDENTIFIED?**

Concerns about a PiPoT's behaviour may be identified by the following people/procedures:

- Police intervention or investigation
- Whistleblowing disclosure
- Safeguarding adult's enquiry (S42)
- Safeguarding children investigation
- Complaints
- Reports from members of the public
- Providers alerting commissioners of services.
- Commissioner's contract monitoring activity.
- SAB partner
- CQC
- Or any other source of disclosure

### **4. WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY IS IT TO RESPOND WHERE A PIPOT CONCERN IS IDENTIFIED?**

- 4.1 The BSAB partner agency (or service provider they commission) who first becomes aware of an allegation or concern will be the Primary Data Controller, or owner of the information. They have first responsibility for taking the appropriate action in line with this Protocol.
- 4.2 Where the concern involves an adult at risk a referral should also be made to adult safeguarding, a decision will be reached about the most appropriate enquiry route (safeguarding enquiry and/ or PiPoT).

### **5. WHAT SHOULD THAT RESPONSE BE?**

- 5.1 Any allegation against people who work with adults with care and support needs should be reported immediately to a senior manager within that organisation and their PiPoT Lead. All BSAB partners will identify a named PiPoT lead and demonstrate that they are able to comply with this policy.
- 5.2 If the Identified lead in each of the BSAB partner agencies is given information about an allegation against a PiPoT, they should consider what information should be shared with employers (or student body or voluntary organisation) so that a suitable response is made, in line with the principles outlined at 1.12. above, Section 6, and Section 7.1 below.

- 5.3 The person responsible for investigating the allegation of concern about the PiPoT must, on the information provided, determine if the situation is a position of trust concern or if other procedures should be used. This must include checking the centrally held list to obtain any relevant information about the alleged PiPoT to inform a risk assessment. (See Appendix 2 for Factors to Consider Chart as a suggested tool to help in this process and Appendix 9 risk assessment which must be shared with relevant commissioners).
- 5.4 A detailed record of the concern and the steps taken in response must be kept (see Appendix 3 for a suggested template example and Section 8 for further information on recording and Appendix 9).
- 5.5 Where the person responsible for investigating the allegation of concern about the PiPoT and / or the PiPoT Lead concludes the concern does not meet the definition of a PiPoT concern (see 2 above), the PiPoT Lead will make a record of the discussion and decision and the reasons for this conclusion (including completion of the risk assessment (appendix 9)). These details could be drawn upon if further concerns are identified about the same individual.
- 5.6 Where the person responsible for investigating the allegation and / or the PiPoT Lead concludes the concern does meet the definition of a PiPoT concern (see 2 above), appropriate action **must** be taken in line with Section 5.
- 5.7 Where PiPoT concerns are identified by partner agencies or services they commission about their employee or volunteer, it will be necessary for the employer (or student body or voluntary organisation) to assess any potential risk to adults with care and support needs who use their services and, if necessary, to take action to safeguard those adults. If the employer (or student body or voluntary organisation) is aware of abuse or neglect in their organisation, then they have a duty to correct this and protect the adult with care and support needs from harm as soon as possible and inform the local authority in accordance with the South Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Policy (<https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/10469/sy-safeguarding-adults-procedures.pdf>) and CQC (if a regulated care provider).
- 5.8 They also have a duty to consider what support and advice they will make available to their staff or volunteers against whom allegations have been made. Any PiPoT about whom there are concerns should be treated fairly and honestly. Their employer has a duty of care towards them.
- 5.9 If the PiPoT is removed by either being dismissed or permanently redeployed to a non-regulated activity because they pose a risk of

harm to adults with care and support needs, the employer (or student body or voluntary organisation) **has a legal duty to refer the person to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)**. In addition, where appropriate, employers should report workers to the statutory and other bodies responsible for professional regulation such as the General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council.

- 5.10 If a person subject to a PiPoT investigation attempts to leave their employment by resigning to avoid the investigation or disciplinary process, the employer (or student body or voluntary organisation) is encouraged not to accept that resignation, conclude all relevant processes and if the outcome warrants it, dismiss the employee or volunteer instead. This would also be the case where the person intends to take up legitimate employment or a course of study. **A referral to DBS must be made if it is not possible to complete the disciplinary process. Adult social care should refer cases to the DBS, if a balance of probabilities decision is reached, via a safeguarding enquiry, which concludes that the worker or volunteer did cause harm or abuse to the adult. This should be recorded within adult social care records.**
- 5.11 Employers, student bodies and voluntary organisations should have their own sources of advice (including legal advice) in place for dealing with such concerns.
- 5.12 Records must be kept of any malicious or unfounded allegations and the evidence secured to validate this decision.
- 5.13 Appendix 1 demonstrates diagrammatically how PiPoT concerns should be managed.

## **6. INFORMATION SHARING**

- 6.1 The default position should be that the owner of the information about a PiPoT should not share it without the PiPoT's knowledge and permission, so they are given the opportunity to share the information with their employer first. If the PiPoT declines to share it with their employer for whatever reason, this does not mean the information cannot be shared by the data controller. In deciding whether to nevertheless share the information with an employer or voluntary organisation, the principles in this section (Section 6) should be followed.
- 6.2 If the PiPoT asks the data controller not to share the information, a decision must be made by the data controller, in line with the principles contained within this Protocol, whether to agree. If it is agreed that information will not be shared, this must be qualified

since it may be the case that more detail comes to light to change this decision. If a decision is made later to share information, the PiPoT should be consulted again and given a further opportunity to disclose the information him or herself if it is appropriate to do so. Again, the data controller could, following the principles for disclosure in this section (Section 6) decide to share the information even if the PiPoT decides not to. All decisions to share or not share information, and their rationale should be clearly recorded.

- 6.3 In each case involving an allegation against a PiPoT, a balance must be struck between the duty to protect people with care and support needs from harm or abuse and the effect upon individuals of information about them being shared (for example, upon the person's Article 8 Human Rights (the right to private and family life). Due regard must be given to these rights when reaching a decision and if necessary legal advice should be sought.
- 6.4 For these reasons each case must be considered on its own merits and personal data shall be processed in accordance with the lawful bases for processing as contained in in Article 6 the General Data Protection Regulation 2018 ("GDPR") which are:
- (a) **Consent:** the individual has given clear consent for you to process their personal data for a specific purpose.
  - (b) **Contract:** the processing is necessary for a contract you have with the individual, or because they have asked you to take specific steps before entering a contract.
  - (c) **Legal obligation:** the processing is necessary for you to comply with the law (not including contractual obligations).
  - (d) **Vital interests:** the processing is necessary to protect someone's life.
  - (e) **Public task:** the processing is necessary for you to perform a task in the public interest or for your official functions, and the task or function has a clear basis in law.
  - (f) **Legitimate interests:** the processing is necessary for your legitimate interests or the legitimate interests of a third party, unless there is a good reason to protect the individual's personal data which overrides those legitimate interests. (This cannot apply if you are a public authority processing data to perform your official tasks.)
- 6.5 The issue is essentially one of proportionality. Information is to be disclosed only if there is a "pressing need" for that disclosure. In



considering proportionality, consideration must be given to the following general principles:<sup>1</sup>

- 6.5.1 The legitimate aim in question must be sufficiently important to justify the interference.
  - 6.5.2 The measures taken to achieve the legitimate aim must be rationally connected to it.
  - 6.5.3 The means used to impair the right must be no more than is necessary to accomplish the objective.
  - 6.5.4 A fair balance must be struck between the rights of the individual and the interests of the community; this requires a careful assessment of the severity and consequences of the interference<sup>2</sup>.
- 6.6 "There is a general presumption [which is not absolute] that information should not be disclosed, such a presumption being based upon a recognition of (a) the potentially serious effect on the ability of [in this case convicted people] to live a normal life; (b) the risk of violence to such people and (c) the risk that disclosure might drive them underground."<sup>3</sup>
- 6.7 Before disclosing information to a third party, there is a need to consult with the person whose information is to be disclosed and to give them an opportunity of making representations before the information is disclosed<sup>4</sup>. "[T]he imposition of such a duty is a necessary ingredient of the process if it is to be fair and proportionate."<sup>5</sup>
- 6.8 Information may be shared by an individual or an agency in the expectation that it will not be shared with others, i.e., it will be kept confidential. Often, a person will preface the disclosure with 'I am telling you this in confidence' or, after making the disclosure, will say 'you won't tell anyone will you?' However, no blanket agreement not to share information with others must be given. Confidential information can be shared if it is justified as being in the public's interest (e.g., for the detection and prevention of crime and for the protection of vulnerable persons, i.e., children or adults with care and support need at risk of harm or neglect). It is a matter of professional judgment, acting in accordance with information sharing

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<sup>1</sup> R (on the application of H) v A City Council [2011] EWCA Civ 403

<sup>2</sup> Huang v Secretary of State for the Home Department, Kashmiri v Same [2007] UKHL 11, [2007] 2 AC 167, para [19]

<sup>3</sup> R v Chief Constable of North Wales Police and Others (ex parte Thorpe and Another) [1999] QB 396, p409

<sup>4</sup> R (L) v Commissioner of Police of the Metropolis (SoS for the Home Department intervening) [2010] 1 AC 410

<sup>5</sup> Ibid per Lord Neuberger (para [84])

protocols and the principles of the DPA to decide whether breaching a PiPoT's confidentiality is in the public's interest.

- 6.9 If after following the above principles, and weighing up the information available, a decision is made not to tell the PiPoT about the concern about them and ask their permission to share it with their employer, (because doing this would place any adults or children at increased risk of harm), then this decision and the reasons for it should be recorded. However, the PiPoT planning process must identify the earliest opportunity for them to be informed.

## **7 ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

### **7.1 THE PiPoT LEAD will:**

- 7.1.1 Record PiPoT issues according to local arrangements. The record should include details of the person referring, the PiPoT, the allegation, how the allegation was followed up and resolved, the decisions reached, and the action taken. This should include checks of the information held in the central records. The record should be kept in accordance with DPA principles and should only be shared in accordance with this Protocol.
- 7.1.2 If not a Safeguarding Adult or Safeguarding Children case, will complete enquiries in line with safeguarding processes to establish the truth or otherwise of allegations and be responsible for deciding what information should be shared with whom and on what basis, bearing in mind the contents of this Protocol. This decision must be recorded in accordance with best practice.
- 7.1.3 It is essential to identify the data owner for each source of information and seek their permission before sharing with others.
- 7.1.4 Report PiPoT activity data to the Safeguarding Adults Board via the PMQA quarterly dashboard, to develop trend data to support preventative actions by BSAB.
- 7.1.5 At the conclusion of any PiPoT enquiry consider if the findings demonstrate evidence of a theme or pattern in the context of past and historic PiPoT concerns; identify potential themes or system wide issues within the organisation; and ensure that appropriate action is taken by their organisation so that learning from past events is applied to reduce the risk of harm to adults with care and support needs in the future.

## 7.2 **SAFEGUARDING MANAGERS** will:

(The Safeguarding Manager worker responsible for coordinating the Adult Safeguarding Enquiry (S42), in most cases this will be the Local Authority) If a PiPoT concern is identified as part of a safeguarding concern, the PiPoT enquiries will be managed within the safeguarding process.

7.2.1 Inform the PiPoT Lead in all cases where a PiPoT is involved so local recording arrangements can be followed.

7.2.2 Where there is no concurrent Police investigation, be responsible for deciding what information should be shared with whom and on what basis, bearing in mind the contents of this Protocol. This decision must be recorded in accordance with best practice.

7.2.3 Where it is appropriate to do so, involve the PiPoT's employer in the safeguarding process.

7.2.4 Inform Commissioning and Care Contracts if the employer is a contracted service and involve them in the safeguarding process.

7.2.5 Ensure that when an adult with care and support needs has been safeguarded but the PiPoT process continues, the adult is monitored according to local arrangements until the PiPoT process is concluded.

7.2.6 Where appropriate liaise with the CQC (where the PiPoT is working or volunteering in a CQC regulated organisation), statutory and other bodies responsible for professional regulation (such as the General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council) and the DBS if there are concerns about the employer's fitness to operate and safeguard adults with care and support needs.

7.2.7 Liaise with other Local Authority Safeguarding Adults Teams where there are cross border issues. Ensure that if the adult at risk is living in another Local Authority area that this Local Authority has screened the PIPOT issue into safeguarding to manage the risks to the adult identified and any other adults who may be at risk from the PIPOT. If more than one adult is identified involving multiple Local Authorities a decision must be reached about how the risks will be addressed for all adults and how information will be shared with relevant individuals/Local Authorities to ensure all adults are safeguarded and appropriate information is shared with the

employer. This may require the employer and/or the safeguarding manager or nominated colleague to attend or contribute to planning or outcome meetings.

7.2.8 Liaise with Children Teams and make a referral to the appropriate Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) if there are specific issues about the PiPoT's contact with children.

7.2.9 The role of the "LADO" (Local Authority Designated Officer for the management of allegations against workers and volunteers of abuse impacting on children) is not described in the Working Together to Safeguarding Children 2018, chapter 2, paragraphs 3 to 8. However, the responsibilities remain and guidance on the role can be found in the Glossary at page 106 -. The role of "LADO" is also clarified in Keeping Children Safe in Education 2019 part 4, which describes the procedure to be followed in greater detail.

7.2.9.1 An allegation may relate to a person who works with children who has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child or may have harmed a child.
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child.
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.

7.2.9.2 The role of the LADO is to provide advice and guidance on how to deal with such allegations to employers and voluntary organisations, to effectively liaise with the police and other agencies to monitor the progress of cases, and to ensure that they are dealt with as quickly as possible, consistent with a thorough and fair process. This will include convening meetings to share information in an approved manner and taking decisions about referrals to regulatory bodies as necessary.

7.3 **POLICE** will:

7.3.1 Report to their PiPoT Lead when they know a PiPoT has behaved in a way as described in Section 2.

7.3.2 If the investigation is led by the police, they will be responsible for deciding what information should be shared, with whom and on what basis, as outlined in their Common Law Disclosure protocol. See appendix 10. SYP have a list of all Barnsley PIPOT leads. This will be recorded in line with best practice.

- 7.3.3 Request that the employer considers taking appropriate action in line with their own procedures to ensure adults at risk are protected from any potential abuse and harm and raise a safeguarding concern with Adult Social Care.
- 7.3.4 Where the police are leading the investigation, the employer will be asked to complete their own risk assessment(s) and consider referral to the Disclosure and Barring Services (DBS) and / or other registration bodies as appropriate.
- 7.3.5 Where appropriate, liaise with the CQC (where the PiPoT is working or volunteering in a CQC regulated organisation), statutory and other bodies responsible for professional regulation (such as the General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council) and the DBS if there are concerns about the employer's fitness to operate and safeguard adults with care and support needs.
- 7.3.6 Liaise with other Local Authority Safeguarding Adults and Children's Teams where there are out of area issues.
- 7.3.7 Make a referral to the LADO if there are specific issues about the PiPoT's contact with children through the Children's social care services.
- 7.3.8 Seek advice as appropriate from the Barnsley Adults Social Care / Safeguarding Manager (or other Local Authority as at 7.2.7) and establish if they need to attend / share relevant police information at any subsequent PiPoT strategy meeting. Any police information shared is for safeguarding purposes only and must not be used for any subsequent disciplinary proceedings without the permission of South Yorkshire Police.

**7.4 THE SERVICE COMMISSIONER will:**

- 7.4.1 Where a Service Commissioner is aware that a service it commissions employs a PiPoT who is under investigation, the Service Commissioner will ensure the commissioned service does the following:
- 7.4.1.1 Takes appropriate action in line with their own procedures to ensure adults with care and support needs are protected from abuse and harm.
  - 7.4.1.2 Carries out appropriate risk management procedures, including consideration of referral to the DBS and other registration bodies.
  - 7.4.1.3 Provides feedback at regular intervals until case conclusion.

- 7.4.2 Monitor the activities of commissioned services in their compliance with this Protocol.
- 7.4.3 Where appropriate, liaise with the CQC (where the PiPoT is working or volunteering in a CQC regulated organisation), statutory and other bodies responsible for professional regulation (such as the General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council) and the DBS if there are concerns about the employer's fitness to operate and safeguard adults with care and support needs.
- 7.4.4 Regularly update the Service Commissioner's PiPoT Lead until case conclusion.
- 7.4.5 Liaise with other Local Authority Safeguarding Adults and Children's Teams where there are out of area issues. (See 7.2.7)

7.5 **EMPLOYERS (statutory, voluntary, and private)** are expected to:

- 7.5.1 Take appropriate action in line with their own procedures to ensure adults with care and support needs are protected from abuse and harm.
- 7.5.2 Carry out appropriate risk management procedures, including, where appropriate, referral to the CQC (where the PiPoT is working or volunteering in a CQC regulated organisation), statutory and other bodies responsible for professional regulation (such as the General Medical Council and the Nursing and Midwifery Council) and the DBS (see 5.9 and appendix 2).
- 7.5.3 Provide feedback at regular intervals to the Safeguarding Manager (if there is a safeguarding investigation) and Commissioning and Care Contracts until case conclusion.
- 7.5.4 Ensure the protection of adults with care and support needs is central to their decision making.
- 7.5.5 Ensure their organisation has a range of policies and procedures that will support their decisions.
- 7.5.6 Ensure all safeguarding concerns that result from a concern about a PiPoT are reported.
- 7.5.7 Liaise with other Local Authority Safeguarding Adults and Children's Teams, where there are out of area issues. (See 7.2.7)

7.5.8 Share information in line with these procedures where it is known the PiPoT also has other employment or voluntary work with adults with care and support needs or children.

7.5.9 At the conclusion of any PiPoT enquiry consider if the findings demonstrate evidence of a theme or pattern in the context of past and historic PiPoT concerns; identify potential themes or system wide issues within the organisation; and ensure that appropriate action is taken by their organisation so that learning from past events is applied to reduce the risk of harm to adults with care and support needs in the future.

## **8 RECORDING OF PiPoT ISSUES**

8.1 Record-keeping is an integral part of all adult safeguarding processes to ensure that adults with care and support needs are safeguarded, and that organisations and individuals are accountable for their actions when responding to concerns about a PiPoT. All cases should be recorded in accordance with this Protocol.

8.2 Individuals with responsibility for the investigation and management of PiPoT concerns must, as far as is practicable, contemporaneously document a complete account of the events, actions and any decisions taken, together with their rationale. This is to enable any objective person to understand the basis of any decision that was made, together with any subsequent action taken.

8.3 Records of actions taken to investigate PiPoT concerns which have been found to be without substance must also be retained to support future enquiries or to provide evidence of "exonerations."

8.4 Records may be used to prepare reports to the Safeguarding Adult Board (for example to identify trends and patterns or give assurance that adults with care and support needs have been protected).

8.5 They might also be shared with any other relevant party to ensure the safety of adults with care and support needs (see Section 6 above).

8.6 A chronology or log of key events, decisions and actions taken should also be maintained to provide a ready overview of progress.

8.7 Individuals (including a PiPoT who is the subject of the recording) are entitled to have access to their personal records whether they are stored electronically or manually. It is therefore important that information recorded is fair, accurate and balanced.

8.8 The purpose of the PiPoT record-keeping is to:

8.8.1 Enable accurate information to be given in response to any future request for a reference.

8.8.2 Provide clarification in cases where a future DBS Disclosure reveals information from the police that an allegation was made but did not result in a prosecution or conviction, however it is in the public interest to assess the risks posed.

8.8.3 Prevent unnecessary re-investigation if an allegation resurfaces after a period of time or multiple alerts are received about the same individual.

8.8.4 Enable patterns of behaviour which may pose a risk to adults with care and support that needs to be identified.

8.8.5 To assure the Safeguarding Adults Board that adults with care and support needs are protected from harm.

## **9. COMPLEX CASES**

9.1 Many PiPoT concerns will be proportionately dealt with through straightforward employment management processes. Other circumstances will be more complex and require appropriate planning at each stage. These may include agency workers, cross boundary working/living arrangements, joint cases involving children (LADO) etc.

For cases involving personal assistants, these should be referred to safeguarding to be dealt with as an S42 enquiry.

### **9.2 Identify key stakeholders.**

These could include:

- The Employer (supervisor/line manager/ HR manager)
- The Commissioner of a commissioned service contract
- Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board Partners.
- The appropriate service regulator (e.g., CQC, Ofsted)
- The Police where there is a criminal concern.
- The social worker of an adult with care and support needs
- Children's Services if children are involved.
- Other case specific e.g., University representative if a student
- LADO or PIPOT lead from another Local Authority area.

### **9.3 PiPoT planning discussion / meetings.**



9.3.1 The relevant PiPoT Lead or Managing Officer will need to decide on the grounds of urgency and risk the best way to share information, risk assess and plan the lines of enquiry. The options would be a discussion, conference calls or a formal meeting. More complex cases and / or those with many stakeholders are likely to require a meeting. Appropriate records should be kept, and Appendices 4-7 provide agenda and minute templates.

9.3.2 The planning discussion / meeting should cover the following areas and be clearly recorded:

- Confidentiality agreement
- Sharing the PiPoT concern and purpose of the meeting
- Information from data controller and attendees
- Risk assessment.
- Whether a crime has been committed
- Agree lines of enquiry (who is doing what and by when)
- Identify actions to be taken in respect of adults with care and support needs.
- Identify who will support the PiPoT.
- Timescales for actions and feedback
- Agree next step and actions.

#### 9.4 **Progress monitoring and timescales**

9.4.1 It is important that PiPoT concerns are managed in a timely way. This is the role of the appropriate PiPoT Lead overseeing the PiPoT enquiry. Timescales should be identified at the planning stage. Regular monitoring is essential to ensure procedures are kept on track and risks are managed. Additional meetings can take place at any time as deemed necessary.

#### 9.5 **Evaluation and conclusion.**

9.5.1 It is important these cases have a robust evaluation and conclusion. This should be completed by the lead organisation. This should include the following areas:

- Share the results of enquiries (e.g., results of disciplinary, criminal, or other processes) and assess if they are adequate or if further work is required.
- Robust risk assessments, including transferable risk (e.g., child protection risk to adults with care and support needs).
- Make recommendations to specific organisations for required actions with timescales.

- Feedback mechanisms (to whom, by whom)
- Determine if further work is required or case closure.

## 9.6 **Malicious or unfounded allegations**

9.6.1 Malicious allegations may result from a disgruntled employee or family member. It is vital to evidence that all allegations have been dealt with robustly and in cases that evidence the alleged PiPoT has caused no harm, this is recorded as full exoneration. The summary should include details of the person raising the allegation, as it is possible that multiple concerns may be generated. This information should be shared with the consent of the PiPoT or in the public interest.

## 9.7 **Record Keeping**

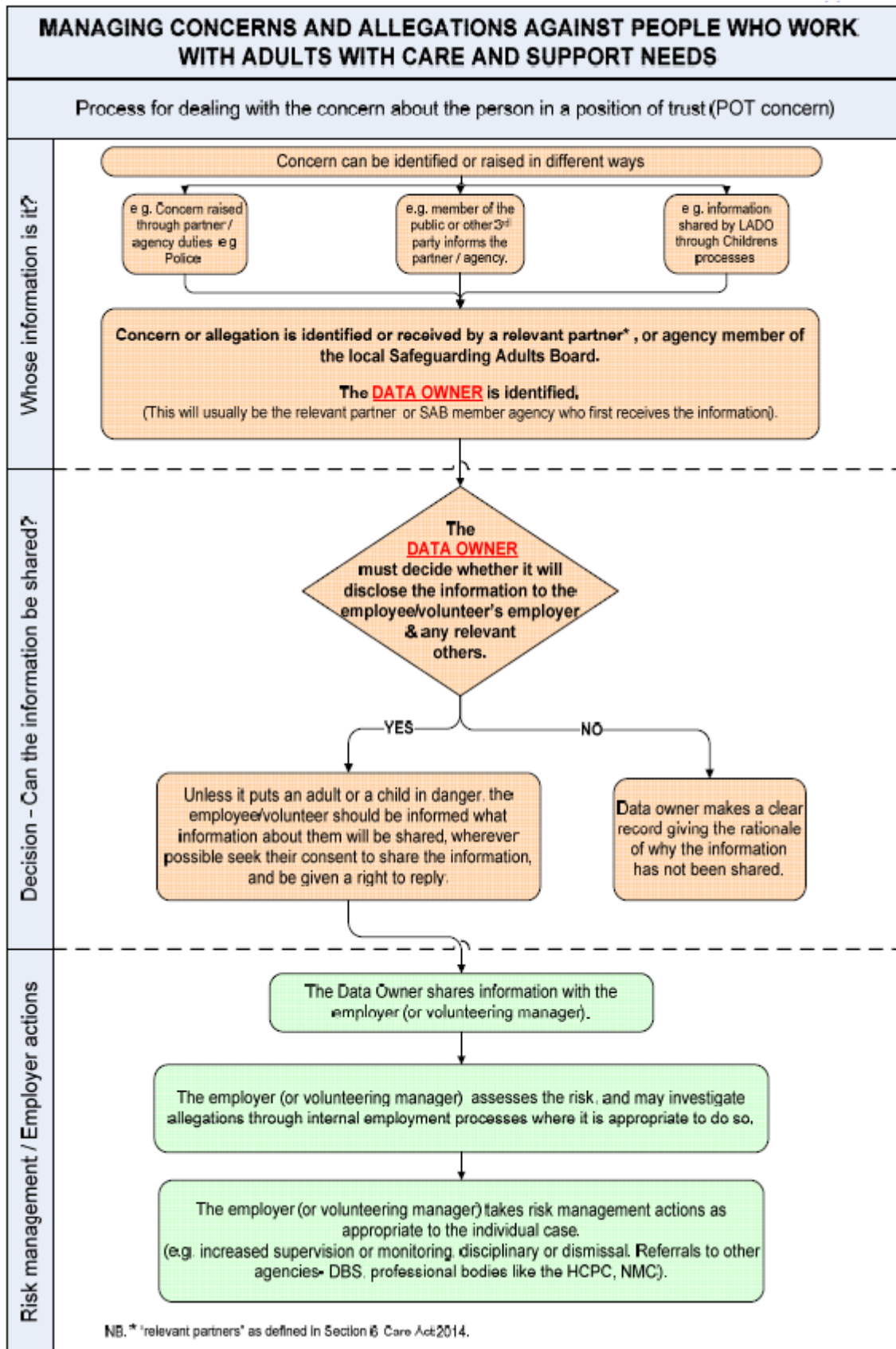
9.7.1 The PiPoT lead must complete appropriate records, which should be securely retained in line with their organisation's information governance policies and procedures.

## APPENDICES

Appendix 1	Managing concerns and allegations against people who work with adults with care and support needs
Appendix 2	Factors to consider on relation to PiPoT notifications
Appendix 3	Referral Form
Appendix 4	Position of Trust Planning Meeting Agenda Template
Appendix 5	Position of Trust Planning Meeting Minutes Template
Appendix 6	Position of Trust Case Closure Agenda Template
Appendix 7	Position of Trust Case Closure Minutes Template
Appendix 8	Suggested database.
Appendix 9	Risk Assessment tool
Appendix 10	SYP Common Law Disclosures protocol

# Appendix 1

## Managing Concerns and Allegations against People who work with Adults with Care and Support Needs



## Appendix 2

**Factors to consider on relation to PiPoT notifications. Use the BSAB Decision Support guidance to evaluate risks.**

Questions	No cause for concern	Some cause for concern requiring investigation.	Cause for concern
1. The person has behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed an Adult with care & support needs?	No harm or potential harm	Some harm or potential harm	Serious harm or potential harm
2. Possibly committed criminal offence against or related to adults at risk?	No	Not to an Adult with care & support needs but the offence	Yes
3. Otherwise behaved towards an adult/s at risk or in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with adults with care and support needs.	No	Yes	<b>Yes</b>
4. Has the person behaved in a way that has harmed children or may have harmed children which means their ability to provide a service to adults with care and support needs must be reviewed?	No	Yes	
5. May be subject to abuse themselves which means their ability to provide a service to adults with care and support needs must be reviewed	No	Yes	
6. Behaved in a way which questions their ability to provide a service to adults with care and support needs which must be reviewed – e.g., conviction for grievous bodily harm who is not an Adult with care & support needs.	No	Yes	

<b>ALL GREEN NOT SAFEGUARDING OR PIPOT</b>	<b>MORE THAN TWO AMBER – FOLLOW PIPOT PROCEDURE</b>	<b>ONE OR MORE RED – FOLLOW PIPOT and/or SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES</b>
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Appendix 3 Suggested **forms for recording PiPoT cases.**

**Partner Organisations of Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board and Providers the commission may choose to use these forms or those of their own design or other recording systems. However, each is required to meet the recording requirements set out in Section 8 of this Protocol.**

Reference or case identification number  

**ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PEOPLE WHO WORK IN POSITIONS OF TRUST (PiPoT) WITH ADULTS WITH CARE AND SUPPORT NEEDS REFERRAL FORM**

Date Referral sent:		Date of alleged incident:	
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**REFERRER DETAILS**

Family Name		First Name/s	
Position		Email address	
Agency		Tel. No/Mobile	
Address			

This referral applies to allegations or concerns raised about a person, whether an employee, volunteer or student, paid or unpaid, who works with or cares for adults with care and support needs. These individuals are known as People in Position of Trust (PiPoT) and the process is the Position of Trust (PiPoT) process.

Criteria for PiPoT:  
Tick all that apply:

	The PiPoT's own work/voluntary activity (with adults and/or Children) (for example where a worker or volunteer has been accused of the abuse or neglect of an adult with care and support needs or child)
	The PiPoT's life outside work i.e., concerning adults with care and support needs in the family, social circle (for example where a son is accused of abusing his older mother and he also works as a domiciliary care worker with adults with care and support needs. Or where a woman is convicted)
	The PiPoT's life outside work i.e., concerning risks to children, the individual's own children or other children (for example where a woman who works in a host authority with women who suffer domestic abuse and lives in the neighbouring authority is subject to child protection procedures involving her own children)

And the person has:

	Behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed an adult with care and support needs.
	Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to an adult/s with care and support needs.
	Otherwise behaved towards an adult with care and support needs or in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with adults with care and support
	Behaved in a way that has harmed children or may have harmed children which means their ability to provide a service to adults with care and support needs
	May be subject to abuse themselves which means their ability to provide a service to adults with care and support needs must be reviewed.
	Behaved in a way which questions their ability to provide a service to an adult with care and support needs which must be reviewed e.g., conviction for grievous bodily harm against someone who is not an adult with care and support needs.

### PERSON IN POSITIONS OF TRUST DETAILS

PERSONAL DETAILS OF THE EMPLOYEE/VOLUNTEER BEING REFERRED for POSITION OF TRUST			
Family Name		First Names	
DOB		Gender	
Home Address			
ID Number		Tel. No	
Current Address (If different)			
Race	Religion	Language	
Gender	Sexuality	Disability	

Other adults or children that may be at risk							
Name	M/F	DOB	ID	Relationship to Child/Young Person	First Language	Parental Responsibility	
						Yes	No
Organisation & Address Person in a Position of Trust Works/Volunteers for:							
Is the organisation named above CQC Registered? Check CQC has been notified? If not notify				Yes / No			
Job Title & Role:							
Does the Person in Position of Trust have a Professional Registration? (e.g., NMC, HCPC, GMC etc.)				Yes / No State: NMC / HCPC / GMC / (specify)			
Manager Contact Details at Employing Organisation:				Name: Address: Email: Telephone:			
Current employment status:							
Has this person been referred to the PiPoT Lead before?  When? What were the concerns and the outcome?  e.g., managed as an advice issue or went to a PiPoT meeting				Yes / No			
Does the Person in Position of Trust know you are making this referral?				Yes / No			



If not, why not? (Please note there may be situations where the adult may be placed at greater risk if the PIPOT is informed immediately)	
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**INCIDENT/CONCERNS DETAILS**

Brief description of concerns:	
Was the victim a child or adult with care and support needs?	Child / Adult with care and support needs / Other (please state)
Are there adult or children's safeguarding procedures currently in process or a history of?	Adult Safeguarding Procedures: Yes / No/not known. Children's Safeguarding Procedures: Yes / No/not known. For all give details
Police Crime Reference Number (if applicable)	Person in Position of Trust:  Child (if applicable):

**ALLEGED VICTIM'S DETAILS**

No. of Alleged Victims	
------------------------	--

1 <sup>st</sup> Adult / Child / Young Person / another individual		ID Number if applicable:
Full Name:		DOB:
Gender:	Male / Female	
Current/Past LA Involvement:		Child in need / child protection current or historical
(If a child) Parent's names and DOB: (if different)		Adult / Child's Relationship to the Alleged Person in Position of Trust:

2 <sup>nd</sup> - Adult / Child / Young Person / another individual		ID Number if applicable:
Full Name:		DOB:
Gender:	Male / Female	
Current/Past LA Involvement:	Indicate if Child in need / Child Protection/Not applicable/other relevant history	
(If a child) Parent's names and DOB: (if different)	Adult / Child's Relationship to the Alleged Person in Position of Trust:	

3 <sup>rd</sup> - Adult / Child / Young Person / another individual		ID Number if applicable:
Full Name:		DOB:
Gender:	Male / Female	
Current/Past LA Involvement:	Child in need / child protection/other relevant history	
(If a child) Parent's names and DOB: (if different)	Adult / Child's Relationship to the Alleged Person in Position of Trust:	

~copy and paste here victims' information if more than 3 victims~

**Please provide the names of key individuals connected to the alleged person in position of trust as the PIPOT Lead/Managing Officer will need to consider who to invite to the PIPOT meeting.**

Job role/title	Name and Job role	Organisation	Telephone Number	Email Address
Supervisor/ Line manager				
HR/Personnel				
Provider Manager				
Police contact				

Contract and Commissioning contact for provider				
CQC for provider				
Health Professional				
Others				

Please provide the names of key individuals connected to the alleged victim(s) as the PIPOT lead/managing officer will need to consider who to invite to the PIPOT meeting.

Job role/title	Name and job role	Organisation	Telephone Number	Email Address
Social Worker				
Health Professional				
Advocate				
Provider				
Voluntary				
Contract and Commissioning contact for provider				
Others				

**For completion by the PiPoT lead/managing officer.**

Record details of advice given/actions agreed.

PiPoT Lead / Managing Officer ADVICE	PiPoT Lead / Managing Officer ACTIONS
Date referral received	

PiPoT Lead DECISION:

Not Adult PiPoT. Referred to another process / procedure (specify):

Request further information from referrer. (Referrer to action)

Initiate PiPoT procedures

Request further information from other sources (PiPoT Lead to action)

Refer to other PiPoT Lead for management

Refer to LADO if appropriate.

DASH risk tool / MARAC referral/ MAPPA referral

PiPoT Lead DECISION DATE:

For Completion by PiPoT Lead - PiPoT Case Recording (record name after each entry or group of entries)

Date/Time	Recording	Outcome/Actions	Contact Details

**Position of Trust Planning Meeting Agenda Template  
(Chair will be the PiPoT lead from the BSAB partner agency)**

Chair/agency		Date	
Start time		Finish Time	
Venue		Minute Taker	
Person in Position of Trust		Employer and role	

### Confidentiality Statement

Those present are reminded that this meeting is strictly confidential. Discussions should not be shared outside of the meeting. All agencies should develop procedures to ensure that the minutes are retained in a confidential and appropriately restricted manner. The minutes will aim to reflect that all individuals who are discussed at the meetings should be treated fairly, with respect and without discrimination. All decisions undertaken at the meetings will be informed by a commitment to equal opportunities and effective practice issues in relation to race, gender, sexuality and disability.

Minutes of this meeting could be shared as part of criminal, civil or disciplinary proceedings, or as part of investigations concerning whether an individual should be barred from working with children or adults with care and support needs.

If further disclosure is appropriate, permission must be sought from the Chair. The minutes should not be photocopied or shared without the agreement of the Chair.

### Purpose of the meeting

This meeting is held under the BSAB Position of Trust Guidance Protocol (2024) to:

- Share information
- Agree actions to be taken, by whom and by when
- Risk assesses

1	Introductions and confidentiality statement
2	Details of the allegations – include both current and details of any previous allegations
3	Consider the safety of the adult(s) concerned and/or the safety of other adults with care and support needs or children
4	Share relevant information from all attendees
5	Risk assessment
6	Risk management plan (support for the victim(s), mechanisms to reduce risk of harm to others and referrals to other processes.
7	Agree any necessary support to the PIPOT (management, trade union etc.)
8	Agree feedback mechanism to the referrer (who, what will be shared and when)
9	Planning the management of the allegations – roles, timescales, communication
10	Consider strategy for media enquiries (if relevant)
11	Set up further meetings and/or timescales to share information
12	AOB

Chair		Date	
Start time		Finish Time	
Venue		Minute Taker	
Person in Position of Trust		Employer and role	

## Position of Trust Planning Meeting Minutes Template

### Appendix 5

Chair		Date	
Start time		Finish Time	
Venue		Minute taker	
Person in Position of Trust		Employer and Role	

Present	
Apologies	
Non-Attendees	
Confidentiality statement read out	
Summary of the allegations and information from agencies	
How this is relevant to their employment, including assessment from other agencies	
Risk Assessment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To consider the safety of adult/s concerned</li> <li>• To consider the safety of other adults or children</li> </ul>	

Agree a risk management plan including support for the victim(s) and referral to other processes			
Agree support to person in position of trust			
Agree feedback mechanism to the referrer (who, what, when)			
Planning the management of the allegation			
	<b>Actions</b>	<b>By Whom</b>	<b>By when</b>
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
Strategy for media enquiries			
Next steps / further meetings			
<b>A.O. B</b>			

This record is issued in the belief that it accurately reflects the meeting. Please contact the chair within 7 days of receipt to record any inaccuracies or omissions. This record is confidential and is not to be reproduced or copied to others without the chair's approval.



## Position of Trust Case Closure Agenda template this can be a virtual process. Appendix 6

### Confidentiality Statement

Those present are reminded that this meeting is strictly confidential. Discussions should not be shared outside of the meeting. All agencies should develop procedures to ensure that the minutes are retained in a confidential and appropriately restricted manner. The minutes will aim to reflect that all individuals who are discussed at the meetings should be treated fairly, with respect and without discrimination. All decisions undertaken at the meetings will be informed by a commitment to equal opportunities and effective practice issues in relation to race, gender, sexuality and disability.

Minutes of this meeting could be shared as part of criminal, civil or disciplinary proceedings, or as part of investigations concerning whether an individual should be barred from working with children or adults with care and support needs.

If further disclosure is appropriate, permission must be sought from the Chair. The minutes should not be photocopied or shared without the agreement of the Chair. Purpose of the meeting

This meeting is held under the BSAB PiPoT Protocol (2024) to:

1. Gain feedback from agreed actions from the PiPoT planning meeting or discussions.
2. Reach a formal determination of the case.
3. Complete further risk assessments.

Agenda	
1	Introductions and confidentiality statement
2	Summary of original allegations
3	Feedback of agreed actions from planning meeting or discussion
4	Risk assessment. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To consider the safety of adult/s concerned<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To consider the safety of other adults or children</li></ul></li></ul> To identify any other ongoing risks and address these
5	Agree formal determination of the case –
6	Agree actions (includes disciplinary action. Referral to regulator and professional bodies (e.g., HCPC, NMC), Disclosure & Barring Service, criminal prosecution etc.)
7	Consider strategy for media enquiries (if relevant)
8	Agree feedback to person in position of trust
9	Agree feedback mechanism to the referrer (who, what, when) and relevant others
10	AOB

Case Determination categories

**Substantiated:** there is sufficient evidence to prove the allegation.

**Malicious:** there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation and there has been a deliberate act to deceive.

**False:** there is sufficient evidence to disprove the allegation.

**Unsubstantiated:** there is insufficient evidence to either prove or disprove the allegation. The term therefore does not imply guilt or innocence.

(Standard of proof is the balance of probability, not beyond reasonable doubt).

## Position of Trust Case Closure Minutes Template (Can be closed virtually.)

Chair		Date	
Start time		Finish Time	
Venue		Minute taker	
Person in Position of Trust		Employer and Role	

Present	
Apologies	
Non-Attendees	
Summary of the allegations	
Feedback of agreed actions from planning meeting or discussion	
Risk assessment. To consider the safety of adult/s concerned To consider the safety of other adults or children To identify any other ongoing risks and address these	
Formal determination of the cases	

	Agreed actions from this meeting	By Whom	By when
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
Strategy for media enquiries			
Agree feedback to person in position of trust			

Agree feedback mechanism to the referrer and relevant others	
<b>A.O. B</b>	

This record is issued in the belief that it accurately reflects the meeting. Please contact the chair within 7 days of receipt to record any inaccuracies or omissions. This record is confidential and is not to be reproduced or copied to others without the chair's approval.

### Suggested Database (for data collection and checking for previous concerns)

Date PiPoT concern received	Date	
From	Referrers details	Name Organisation Contact details
In relation to	PiPoT details	Name Address s DOB Contact details. Position of trust detail (job/role)
Specific to their employment/placement with	Employer/managers details	Name Organisation Contact details
The concerns are	Details of allegation/concern	What, when
The concerns are going to be managed by	Managed by	Safeguarding Adults Safeguarding Children Adult PiPoT Guidance Children's PiPoT procedure NO PiPoT process
Date passed to employer	Date passed to employer	
Outcome	Outcome	Date Outcomes Referrals to regulatory bodies etc.

## Appendix 9 – Risk Assessment

Name of person completing form	Organisation	Contact Details

Name of PIPOT	Concern related to work role	Concern related to activity outside work role	Source of concern – police, adult at risk etc.
	Yes / No	Yes/ No	

### Verification and risk assessment

Complete all appropriate boxes showing what risks have been identified and how these have been validated.

Risk	Evidence of risks	Risk assessment and name of manager completing this
1. The person has behaved in a way that has harmed or may have harmed an Adult with care & support needs?		
2. Possibly committed criminal offence against or related to adults at risk?		
3. Otherwise behaved towards an adult/s at risk or in a way that indicates s/he is unsuitable to work with adults with care and support needs.		
4. Has the person behaved in a way that has harmed children or may have harmed children which means their ability to provide a service to adults with care and support needs must be reviewed?		
5. May be subject to abuse themselves which means their ability to provide a service to adults with care and support needs must be reviewed		
6. Behaved in a way which		

questions their ability to provide a service to adults with care and support needs which must be reviewed – e.g., conviction for grievous bodily harm who is not an Adult with care & support needs.		
--	--	--

**Views of alleged adult at risk and alleged PIPOT**

Views of alleged adult at risk (if appropriate or available)	
Views of the alleged PIPOT to the information obtained because of the risk assessment	

**Manager’s decision**

Progress to disciplinary action	Yes/No	comments
Refer to Safeguarding		
Refer to police		
Other – please state		

**Date and name of commissioner informed (if appropriate) or date completed for own records.**

## Appendix 10

# Common Law Police Disclosures

### Reference: Pi7.2

This document is part of the SYP Statement of Agreed Policy on the [P7 - Information Management](#) and in conjunction with [Authorised Professional Practice \(APP\)](#). You may wish to refer to these now.

In line with the instructions contained within APP the following additions will also apply.

### Instructions:

These instructions outline the processes involving the disclosure of conviction and other information in relation to people in professions or occupations, which carry additional trust or responsibility (often referred to as “notifiable occupations”).

### **Common Law Police Disclosure**

The Common Law Disclosure Scheme states that any relevant information discovered in the course of an investigation or other policing activity, that identifies a “pressing social need”, or poses a serious and urgent risk to another individual, group or the public, may be disclosed to a third party.

The recipient of the disclosure should be an individual or body that is able to take immediate action to mitigate any risks made evident by the disclosure in respect of an employment or voluntary role believed to be undertaken by that individual.

The ‘pressing social need’ threshold for making a disclosure under Common Law powers is considered to be the same as that required for the disclosure of ‘Approved information’ in accordance with the provisions of Part V of the Police Act 1997.

Any decision to disclose information must balance the needs of the public in general, against the rights and interests of the individual. It will involve considering the impact of disclosure on the private life of the individual concerned. Decisions should also take into account any adverse impact disclosure might have on the prevention or detection of crime.

A hypothetical example best illustrates the change – [Example](#)

The Common Law Police Disclosures does not provide for the disclosure of **convictions**, as it is unlikely that the urgent and pressing requirements identified will be fulfilled if information is not disclosed until a conviction is given. It is vital that common law-based disclosure decisions are processed by the police without unnecessary delay in order that the recipient can respond effectively to the urgent risk identified.

Employers and regulators can be made aware of convictions via the DBS Update Service under the statutory disclosure route provided by Part V of the Police Act 1997.



## **Process**

In line with processes in place for the DBS Update Service, all requests for disclosure will be referred to the Chief Officer delegate (Disclosure Unit Manager) at the force Disclosure Unit within Atlas Court. Sources which may inform a referral include:

- Investigating Officers who have identified risks arising from the nature of the information and their knowledge of any roles performed by the individual concerned.
- Local police records (including custody, intelligence etc.)

The Disclosure Unit will then carry out necessary checks before making the decision to disclose.

It is recognized that in cases of extreme urgency it may be necessary for a police officer, or a member of police staff, to disclose information on their own initiative and without referring the matter to the Disclosure Unit. In such cases the disclosure and the justification for it should be reported to the Disclosure Unit as soon as practicable via email to [notifiables/COMMS/SYP](#). It must include the nominal's full details and the details of the 3<sup>rd</sup> party to which the disclosure was made.

Note: In cases whereby a third party contacts the Police due to concerns they may have been made aware of by a member of the public, the Disclosure Unit Manager will look at these on a case by case basis provided that the [3rd party disclosure form](#) has been completed, highlighting their concerns and justification as to why they require such information. The form can then be emailed to [dawn.eyre@southyorks.pnn.police.uk](mailto:dawn.eyre@southyorks.pnn.police.uk)

Please see [Common Law Disclosure presentation](#) for more details.

## **Equality Act 2010:**

The Act creates a statutory requirement for all Functions and Policies (Including Procedural Instructions) to be analysed for their effect on equality, diversity and human rights, with due regard to the [General Equality Duty](#).

In principle, this document has been assessed for discrimination, which cannot be justified, among other diverse groups.