



SOUTH YORKSHIRE SAFEGUARDING ADULT'S PRINCIPLES

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South Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Principles

This document outlines the safeguarding principles, procedures, and collaborative approaches adopted across the four South Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Boards to protect adults at risk from abuse and neglect. It serves as a strategic and operational guide for local authorities, partner organisations, and professionals involved in safeguarding adults with care and support needs.

Scope and Legal Framework

The safeguarding framework is grounded in the Care Act 2014, which sets out statutory duties for Safeguarding Adults Boards, local authorities and statutory partners, health and police services and our non-statutory partners such as probation, fire service etc. The Mental Capacity Act and relevant criminal legislation further underpin safeguarding practice, ensuring that adults with impaired decision-making abilities are protected and supported appropriately.

Introduction to Safeguarding Adults

Safeguarding adults is a person-centred, outcome-focused process aimed at responding sensitively to abuse concerns (including self-neglect and/or hoarding). While local authorities coordinate safeguarding activities, duties to make enquiries may be delegated to health, police, or care providers. Effective safeguarding relies on multi-agency collaboration to ensure the safety and well-being of adults at risk.

Safeguarding Principles

The document emphasizes six key principles guiding adult safeguarding:

- **Empowerment:** Supporting adults to make informed decisions with their consent.
- **Prevention:** Acting proactively to prevent abuse.
- **Proportionality:** Ensuring responses are the least intrusive necessary.
- **Protection:** Providing support for those most in need.
- **Partnership:** Encouraging collaboration among services and communities.
- **Accountability:** Maintaining transparency and responsibility in safeguarding actions.

These principles apply across all sectors and should inform professional practice and organisational policies. The Mental Capacity Act principles are also integral, especially when adults cannot make decisions independently.

Types of Abuse and Neglect

The Care Act 2014 identifies various forms of abuse and neglect, including but not limited to:

- Physical abuse and assault
- Domestic violence and coercive control
- Sexual abuse and exploitation
- Psychological and emotional abuse
- Financial or material abuse, including fraud and theft
- Modern slavery and human trafficking
- Discriminatory abuse based on protected characteristics
- Organisational or institutional abuse
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Self-neglect and hoarding
- Cuckooing (exploitation in a vulnerable person's home)

Professionals are advised to maintain a broad perspective on abuse, considering individual circumstances and wishes. Indicators for each abuse type are detailed to assist in identification.

People in Positions of Trust (PIPOT)

The document highlights the importance of frameworks to respond to allegations against individuals working or volunteering with adults at risk. Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs) must ensure robust policies for managing concerns about PIPOT, including clear recording and information-sharing protocols. Collaboration with the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) is advised when children are also at risk. Consent is not required from the adult at risk to progress a PIPOT enquiry.

Safeguarding Procedures and Enquiries

Concerns should be raised promptly by the person who identifies potential abuse, with immediate safety prioritised. Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 requires that each local authority must make enquiries (or cause others to do so) if it believes an adult is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect. When an allegation about abuse or neglect has been made, an enquiry is undertaken to find out what, if anything, has happened. Throughout, the adult's views, consent, and desired outcomes must be central, with clear communication and feedback provided to those raising concerns. In certain cases, including risk to life, public interest, and people in positions of trust (PiPot) concerns should be raised and enquiries may be made without the consent of the adult.

Escalation and Resolving Professional Differences

Effective safeguarding requires timely resolution of professional disagreements to prevent delays in protecting adults at risk. Challenges should be addressed openly and at the lowest possible level, maintaining the adult's safety and well-being as paramount.

Commissioning and Governance

Commissioners have a responsibility to ensure that contracted providers adhere to safeguarding standards, including staff training, monitoring, and clear policies such as whistleblowing. Safeguarding considerations must be embedded in contracts and service specifications to promote continuous quality and safety improvements.

Out of Area Placements

An adult with care and support needs can be placed outside the boundaries of their local authority due:-

- Lack of local services
- Specialist care needs
- Availability issues
- Cost and commissioning decisions

Local authorities remain responsible for the individual(s) they place out of area. OOA placements should be a last resort unless they are in the individuals' best interests. If an individual dies or suffers serious harm the Safeguarding Adults review will be coordinated by the local authority in which the individual was placed.

Role and Duties of Safeguarding Adults Boards (SABs)

SABs are statutory bodies tasked with coordinating and assuring safeguarding practice locally. Their core duties include:

1. Developing and publishing a strategic plan.
2. Producing an annual report on safeguarding effectiveness.
3. Commissioning Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs) for serious cases and embedding the learning.

SABs promote partnership working, learning from reviews, and incorporating the voices of adults at risk to improve safeguarding outcomes.

Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)

SARs are conducted when an adult at risk dies or suffers serious harm linked to abuse or neglect, especially where there are concerns about inter-agency working. These reviews aim to identify lessons to improve practice and prevent recurrence.

Board Partners' Responsibilities

All SAB members share accountability for safeguarding effectiveness, ensuring active engagement, proper representation, and contribution to strategic plans and reports. They maintain their own organisational accountability while collaborating to safeguard adults.

Linked Agendas

Safeguarding intersects with various related areas including:

- Domestic violence and abuse
- Forced marriage and honour-based violence
- Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)
- Modern slavery
- Prevent (counter-terrorism strategy)
- Hate crime and anti-social behaviour
- Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA)
- Health and safety enforcement
- Safeguarding children and young people
- Prisons and approved premises

Awareness and cooperation across these agendas are essential for comprehensive safeguarding.

Key Themes in Safeguarding Practice

Several overarching themes guide safeguarding work:

- **Consent:** Adults should be involved and empowered in decisions about their safeguarding.
- **Safeguarding is Everyone's Business:** All individuals and organisations share responsibility.
- **Professional Judgement and Curiosity:** Practitioners must exercise critical inquiry and use their expertise.
- **Risk Assessment and Management:** Ongoing evaluation of risks to the adult and others.
- **Mental Capacity:** Presumption of capacity unless assessed otherwise, with support and best-interest decisions as needed.
- **Advocacy:** Ensuring adults with substantial difficulty in participation receive appropriate advocacy support.
- **Safeguarding Planning:** Developing plans to prevent or reduce abuse risks aligned with adult choices.
- **Information Sharing:** Balancing confidentiality with the need for effective multi-agency collaboration.
- **Recording:** Maintaining accurate, clear records to support accountability and evidence.
- **Feedback:** Keeping adults and referrers informed about safeguarding processes and outcomes.
- **Recovery:** Supporting adults to recover and rebuild following abuse.
- **Human Rights:** Ensuring safeguarding respects autonomy, privacy, and proportionality under the Human Rights Act.

Raising a Safeguarding Concern in South Yorkshire

The document provides contact details for raising concerns in each local authority area:

Area	Contact Number	Online Referral Link
Barnsley	01226 773 300	Barnsley Council Safeguarding Concern
Doncaster	01302 737 391 (Option 3)	Doncaster Council Safeguarding Concern
Rotherham	01709 822 330	Worried about an adult? Rotherham Council
Sheffield	0114 273 4908	Sheffield Council Safeguarding Concern

These contact points ensure accessibility for professionals and the public to report concerns promptly.

Appendices Overview

- **Appendix 1:** Details the partners involved in safeguarding adults' boards and their statutory duties, including local authorities, police, NHS England, CPS, fire services, housing, coroners, probation services, CQC, Healthwatch, and voluntary/private sector providers. Each partner has defined roles contributing to safeguarding adults.
- **Appendix 2:** Explores linked safeguarding agendas such as domestic violence, forced marriage, honour-based violence, FGM, modern slavery, Prevent agenda, hate crime, anti-social behaviour, MAPPA, health and safety enforcement, safeguarding children, and custodial settings. It highlights the importance of integrated responses across these areas.
- **Appendix 3:** Provides guidance for referrers on identifying adults at risk, understanding abuse and neglect, consent considerations, and the safeguarding process. It emphasizes the shared responsibility to act, the importance of consent and best interests, and what to expect when raising concerns.

This document serves as a foundational resource for safeguarding adults across South Yorkshire, promoting a consistent, person-centred, and legally compliant approach to protecting vulnerable adults from abuse and neglect.