



SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AT RISK - DEFINITIONS & PRINCIPLES

“Adults at risk of harm”

We have now moved away from the terminology of ‘vulnerable adults’ towards ‘adults at risk of harm’, usually shortened to ‘adults at risk’ in policies and procedures. There may also be reference to an ‘adult with a care and support need’.

Policy and procedures that any organisation implements should reflect this and include the current definition of adults at risk rather than that of vulnerable adults.

The Care Act 2014 makes it clear that abuse of adults’ links to circumstances rather than the characteristics of the people experiencing the harm. Labelling groups of people as inherently ‘vulnerable’ is seen to be disempowering.

Safeguarding Adults at Risk

“Adult safeguarding” is working with adults with care and support needs to keep them safe from abuse or neglect. It is an important part of what many public services do, and a key responsibility of local authorities.’ – Care Act 2014

All organisations have a duty to ensure that the welfare of all adults is ensured. As part of this they need to understand when to implement their safeguarding adults reporting procedures.

Safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect; and;
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

SIX PRINCIPLES OF ADULT SAFEGUARDING

Empowerment

People are supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.

“I am asked what I want as the outcomes from the safeguarding process and this directly inform what happens.”

Prevention

It is better to take action before harm occurs.

“I receive clear and simple information about what abuse is. I know how to recognise the signs, and I know what I can do to seek help.”

Proportionality

The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

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“I am sure that the professionals will work in my interest and they will only get involved as much as is necessary.”

Protection

Support and representation for those in greatest need.

“I get help and support to report abuse and neglect. I get help so that I am able to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want.”

Partnership

Services offer local solutions through working closely with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.

“I know that staff treat any personal and sensitive information in confidence, only sharing what is helpful and necessary. I am confident that professionals will work together and with me to get the best result for me.”

Accountability

Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

“I understand the role of everyone involved in my life and so do they.”