



Self-neglect briefing: Sussex procedures to support adults who self-neglect

The self-neglect procedures within the [Sussex Safeguarding Adults policy and procedures](#), have recently been updated which takes account of learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews involving self-neglect. This briefing sets out the key sections of the new [Sussex self-neglect procedures](#). The procedures provide a clear pathway to assist professionals from any organisation to work using a multi-agency approach when working with adults who are displaying self-neglecting behaviours.

Safeguarding leads are encouraged to share this briefing with teams to encourage staff to use the new [self-neglect procedures](#).

Section	Summary
Overview of the self-neglect process	An overview of the self-neglect process, identifying the lead agency and co-ordination of the process. A flowchart of the process is on page 2 of this summary.
Self-neglect and the Care Act 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Importance of early intervention and prevention • When is a Section 42 enquiry required? Three key tests • Non-statutory safeguarding enquiries • Professional judgement and risk factors to be considered
Self-neglect: signs and causes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators of self-neglect • Self-neglect and hoarding • Reasons for self neglect • Home safety visits
Working with adults who self-neglect	Key principles of engagement and guidance on the challenges of non-engagement and advice on effective interventions in multi-agency settings.
Self-neglect and mental capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessing mental capacity • Fluctuating capacity • Unwise decisions • Decisional and executive capacity • Inherent jurisdiction • Best interests decision making and the Court of Protection
Collaborative multi-agency working	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi-agency meetings • Timescales • Seeking legal advice • Recording and communicating outcomes
Comprehensive assessment of neglect (including risk assessment)	Process put in place following a multi-agency meeting and the factors to take into account when assessing risk, including: how to manage risks; ongoing monitoring arrangements and contingency plans
Multi-agency review meetings	Process to follow if risk remains or is ongoing. Ensuring new objectives, perspectives and approaches.
Legal remedies	Legal remedies to consider in adult safeguarding cases.
Self-neglect: checklist for practitioners	A checklist to consider key stages of intervention. Can be used at planning or closing stages, or during supervision.



Flowchart – Overview of self-neglect process in Sussex

Self-neglecting individual identified by an agency / service

The identifying agency:

Considers whether any immediate actions are required – for example to contact emergency services or any other actions to minimise risk to the individual or others, **and** considers the need to contact Adult Social Care to raise a safeguarding concern (consider the 3 key tests under Section 42 of the Care Act) or to request a social care assessment, **and/or**

Consider whether to convene a multi-agency meeting

Identify lead agency

The Local Authority will be the lead agency if a safeguarding enquiry under section 42 of the Care Act is undertaken (but the local authority may cause another agency who is best placed to lead this enquiry). In other cases, the lead agency will be the agency best placed to coordinate the process at this point. This could be because:

- the agency is already involved with the adult
- the agency has a duty of care towards them because of their needs
- the agency holds significant information relating to that adult
- the individual has shown a likelihood to engage with them best in the past, **and /or**
- the individual's main needs appear to relate to the service provided by that agency.

Lead agency coordinates information gathering

Including consideration of the most appropriate actions to address the concerns raised, and initial considerations about the adult's mental capacity.

Multi-agency meeting

The lead agency convenes a meeting under the self-neglect procedures to:

- Consider risks and issues of mental capacity
- Share information between agencies
- Devise a shared action plan

The lead agency will make arrangements to involve the adult concerned as much as possible **and/or** their representative/advocate.

Comprehensive assessment of risk

Outcomes determined / Risk addressed

- Support accepted
- Ongoing monitoring

Outcomes determined / Risk remains

- Escalation (to risk panels if available/ senior managers/legal services)/ ongoing monitoring
- Repeat multi-agency meetings
- Safeguarding concern raised where required

The full set of self-neglect procedures can be accessed at:

<http://sussexsafeguardingadults.procedures.org.uk/pkoox/sussex-safeguarding-adults-procedures/sussex-multi-agency-procedures-to-support-adults-who-self-neglect>