

# What is Safeguarding Learning Briefing

## What are the types of Abuse?

**Physical abuse:** hitting, kicking, burning, giving you the wrong medication or medication, you don't need.

**Neglect:** not getting the help, food, or healthcare you need.

**Self-neglect:** not looking after your own needs, or not wanting help offered to you.

**Financial abuse:** stealing money or possessions, not letting you have money or telling you what to spend it on.

**Domestic abuse:** any form of abuse from anyone that you live with, including ex-partners.

**Sexual abuse:** unwanted sexual contact such as touching or kissing, taking or sending sexual pictures.

**Psychological/Emotional abuse:** shouting, threats, cyber bullying.

**Discrimination:** threats, insults, harassment, or abuse based on disability, age, ethnicity, gender, religion, or sexuality.

**Modern Slavery:** working without being paid or not being paid enough

**Organisational abuse:** poor care, neglect, poor practice.

Abuse/neglect can happen once or multiple times. It can be caused by anyone, someone known to the adult such as a family member or friend, another adult with support needs, a professional or a stranger. It can happen anywhere, including a person's own home, a care home, health setting or in a public place.

## How do I raise a Safeguarding Concern?

If you are concerned about abuse and neglect, make a safeguarding referral using [the online form](#)

Members of the public can also phone 01243 642121

You can also listen to our [What is Safeguarding podcast opens audio clip](#) for information about types of abuse and how to raise a concern.

## What should I do before I report a concern?

- Assess risks & take steps to remove immediate danger
- If a crime is in progress dial 999 before also contacting adult social care using [the online form](#) & safeguard any potential evidence
- Contact Children's Services using [the online form](#) if a child or young person is also at risk

## What is Making Safeguarding Personal?

[Making Safeguarding Personal](#) promotes adults' involvement in safeguarding process, increasing choice and control & improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety. It means working alongside an adult to identify the outcomes they want, with the aim of reducing/removing risk and supporting them to be safe. You can find further information and a podcast about MSP on our [website](#).

West Sussex  
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Making Safeguarding Personal



## What happens after a concern is reported?

Safeguarding applies to an adult who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs),
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect,
- 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.

These are referred to as the 'three key test.' If these are met the local authority has a legal duty to make enquiries or cause others to do so.

## What happens if the adult does not want to proceed with an Enquiry?

The duty to undertake an enquiry is triggered by the three key test being met and, consent from the adult should always be sought. However, there are circumstances where actions need to be taken even when an adult does not consent. These include the following:

- Others are, or will be, put at risk.
- Where it is in the public interest because a criminal offence has occurred.
- The adult lacks capacity to understand risks.
- The adult has capacity but cannot decide freely because of coercion or influence.

The adult should be informed of actions to be taken and reasons for this.

## Arranging Advocacy

Adults must be involved in decisions made about them, no matter how complex their needs. The Care Act states that Advocacy must be arranged where an adult has difficulty understanding the process. This can be an Independent Advocate a friend or an unpaid carer. An Advocate's role is to facilitate the adult's involvement, not make decisions on their behalf.

In line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005, there must be an underlying assumption that an adult has capacity to make relevant decisions themselves. Where there is concern that the adult may lack capacity to make specific and needed decisions, the [Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice](#) should be followed.

## 6 Principles of Safeguarding

Any safeguarding work being undertaken with an adult should follow these principles:

- 1. Empowerment:** person led decisions & informed consent
- 2. Prevention:** acting before harm occurs
- 3. Proportionality:** using the most appropriate response to the level of risk
- 4. Protection:** Support & representation for those in need
- 5. Partnership:** Working together to prevent & respond to safeguarding concerns
- 6. Accountability:** Accountability and transparency

## Concluding an Enquiry

The local authority concludes an enquiry when the following has taken place:

1. The views, wishes, best interests & desired outcomes of the adult have been considered.
2. The enquiry aimed to meet desired outcomes & has been reviewed with the adult before being closed.
3. Consideration has been given to reflecting the views of the cause of risk, if appropriate.
4. Relevant information has been gathered & evaluated to prevent future abuse, where possible.
5. The enquiry has been thoroughly completed & accurately recorded.
6. If applicable, information has been passed to the relevant commissioner, Quality Monitoring Teams & CQC.
7. Information has been shared, where appropriate & as necessary; there is an [Information Sharing Guide and Protocol](#) in place to support this.
8. Where there has been serious injury or a death, the Sussex Adults Death protocol and Safeguarding Adults Review referral was considered.
9. Any recommended further actions have been addressed.
10. Where the risk cannot be reduced or removed there is consideration as to the ongoing arrangements, including arrangements for monitoring, review & risk management.

## Preventing harm & Abuse

The key to reducing the risk of safeguarding concerns, is preventative work. This may involve adults using their own support networks, support or care services to:

- Recognise risks & consider how they wish to reduce these risks
- Identify strengths, skills, support & networks they could use to avoid potentially abusive situations
- Be aware of what to do if an abusive situation arises

Carers should have access to information about safeguarding, so they can recognise abuse, raise concerns and seek advice or support where needed.

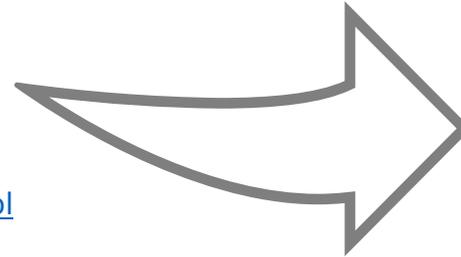
## Promoting Wellbeing

Wellbeing is a broad concept & should apply to all agencies involved in safeguarding adults. Wellbeing relates to the following areas:

- Personal dignity
- Physical, mental health & emotional wellbeing
- Protection from abuse & neglect
- Control over day-to-day life
- Participation in work, education, training or recreation
- Social & economic wellbeing
- Domestic, family and personal relationships
- Suitability of accommodation
- Contribution to society

## Resources & further reading to ensure your practice is current:

- [Mental Capacity Act](#)
- [Care Act](#)
- [Care Act Statutory Guidance](#)
- [Pan-Sussex Safeguarding Policy and Procedure](#)
- [WSSAB Threshold Guidance](#)
- [Pan-Sussex Information Sharing Guide and Protocol](#)
- [Making Safeguarding Personal Learning Briefing](#)
- [Making Safeguarding Personal Toolkit](#)
- [NHS Safeguarding Accountability Assurance Framework](#)



For advice about Safeguarding professionals can call the WSCC Safeguarding Hub on 03302 228400.