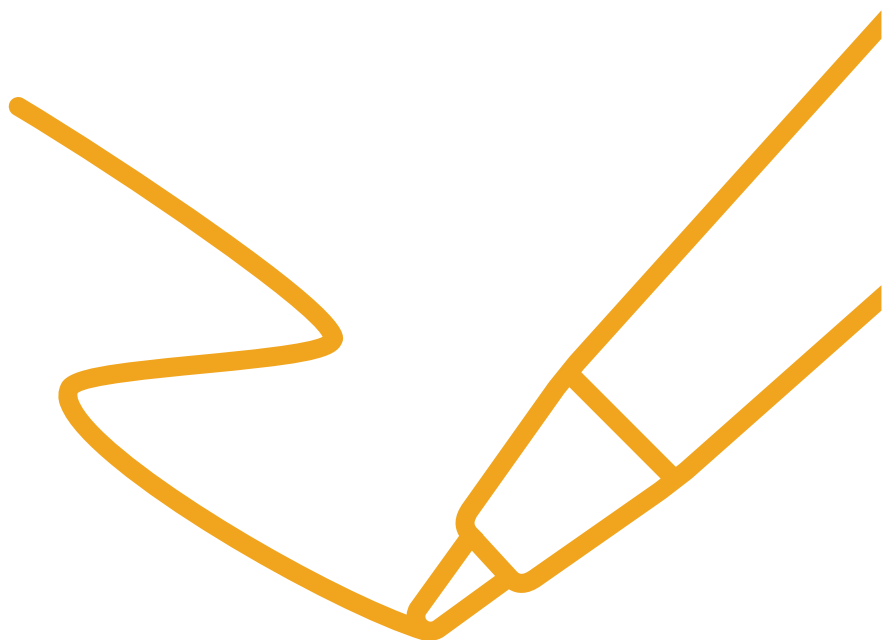




Safeguarding young people 17.5+ protocol

Guidance for staff on safeguarding
procedures when working with young
people aged 17.5+

Here's some extra help – if you need it.



Introduction

This guidance has been produced for staff, with the intention of summarising and clarifying the process for safeguarding young people aged 17.5+, when there may be some crossover with work undertaken by Children's Services, and work undertaken by Adults' Services.

This guidance is not exhaustive and should be read alongside the [Safeguarding Young People 17.5+ Protocol](#) (West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board and West Sussex Safeguarding Children Partnership, 2022). That protocol includes guidance on the wider context to safeguarding for transition-aged adults, as well as arrangements for out-of-area safeguarding and Safeguarding Adults Reviews.

Your responsibilities

This guidance should be referred to if you are working with a young person aged 17.5 to 25 years, who:

- has care or support needs, including young people who are in receipt of the West Sussex County Council Leaving Care Service and;
- are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.

This guidance relates both to young people transitioning from Children's Services to independence, and young people transitioning from Children's Services to Adult Social Care.

Please note: If there is need to consider the mental capacity of a young person, then the Mental Capacity Act (2005) applies from the age of 16.



The safeguarding process

1. **If you are concerned that a young person is at risk of harm, complete the online [safeguarding referral form](#).**

If the concern is regarding a person under the age of 18, the referral will go to Children's Services for consideration. If the concern relates to a person 18 or over, it will go to Adults' Services for consideration. This is the case irrespective of whether a young person 18 or over is still in receipt of services from a Children's Service.

2. **Where a safeguarding process is being led on by either Children's Services or Leaving Care Service, invite a representative from Adults Social Care. Contact the [Safeguarding Adults Hub](#) to facilitate this.**

It is particularly important to involve Adult Social Care where the safeguarding concern is anticipated to continue after the young person turns 18. Between them, services will agree who is best placed to progress the safeguarding process; Adults Social Care or Children's Services. In all cases, information should be shared as appropriate between the services.

3. **Ensure that a safeguarding plan is determined no later than one month prior to the young person's 18th birthday.**

If there is already a safeguarding plan in place, this should be reviewed jointly between Adults Social Care and Children's Services. Any future safeguarding plans will be produced under safeguarding adults procedures.

4. **Once all avenues have been explored under safeguarding, if risk remains high, you should consider referring the young person to the [Multi-Agency Risk Management \(MARM\) subgroup](#).**

If, at any point after safeguarding processes are closed, new information indicates further risk, you should submit a new safeguarding referral.

Please note: If, at any point, it is decided that a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) referral should be submitted for the young person, the SAR subgroup, along with the referrer and a senior member of Children's Services, will agree which Board will lead on the work.