

# One Minute Guide to Safeguarding

Safeguarding is a term used to protect the health, well-being and human rights of individuals, which allow people — especially children, young people and adults at risk — to live free from abuse, harm and neglect.

If you suspect an individual is being neglected or has been hurt or is at risk of being harmed, you have a responsibility to report this either to your line manager or directly to the local authority by contacting them on:

	Southampton	Isle of Wight	Hampshire	Portsmouth
<b>Adults</b>	02380 833 003 <a href="mailto:Adultsocialcareconnect@southampton.gov.uk">Adultsocialcareconnect@southampton.gov.uk</a>	01983 814980	0300 555 1386	023 9268 0810
<b>Children</b>	023 8083 2300 <a href="mailto:MASH@southampton.gov.uk">MASH@southampton.gov.uk</a>	0300 300 0117	0300 555 1384	023 9268 8793 email MASH@secure.portsmouthcc.gov.uk
<b>Out of hours</b>	02380 233 344	Children: 0300 300 0117 Adults: 01983 821105 or email safeguardingconcerns@iow.gov.uk	0300 555 1373	Children: 0300 555 1373 Adults: <a href="mailto:PortsmouthAdultMASH@portsmouthcc.gov.uk">PortsmouthAdultMASH@portsmouthcc.gov.uk</a>

## If you believe someone is in immediate danger you should call 999 for the police

The local authority is the lead organisation responsible for overseeing safeguarding enquiries. Other professional organisations such as Police and NHS staff play a key role in this and may support further by making enquiries and overseeing investigations when requested to do so by the local authority.

In some areas, when calling the above number, you may be connected to a Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). This service is made up of Police, local authority, NHS and other organisations. MASH helps agencies to act quickly in a coordinated and consistent way. This means that risks for the person can be mitigated.

If any person discloses to you they are being abused you have a duty to report it. You must seek advice and support from a registered professional, if you are unsure. You should;

- listen carefully to what they're saying
- let them know they've done the right thing by telling you
- tell them it's not their fault
- say you'll take them seriously
- don't confront the alleged abuser
- explain what you'll do next
- report what the child has told you as soon as possible

**You have a duty to protect and prevent any serious harm to that individual regardless of their age.**

### How to tell if a child may be being abused:

Abuse is a form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults, or another child or children.

For children the categories of abuse are (including examples):

- **Physical:** Physical harm to the child, such as hitting, kicking, misuse of medication.
- **Emotional:** Conveying to children that they are unloved, worthless or inadequate.
- **Sexual:** Forcing a child to take part in sexual activity, whether or not the child is aware of what's happening.
- **Neglect:** failure to meet the child's basic needs such as food, clothing and shelter.
- **Exploitation:** Imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18. This can be sexual and/or criminal.
- **Radicalisation:** Extremism goes beyond terrorism and includes people who target the vulnerable – including the young – by seeking to sow division between communities.

### How to tell if an Adult may be being abused:

- Withdrawal from friends or usual activities.
- Changes in behaviour — such as aggression, anger, hostility or hyperactivity Depression, anxiety or unusual fears, or a sudden loss of self-confidence.
- Unexplained injuries or injuries they have tried to brush off, more frequent injuries.
- Sudden movement when people come into close proximity, nervousness on edge.
- No access to any finance, personal belongings or ID.
- Looking to another to speak on their behalf unable to make eye contact.

### Signs of Neglect

- Unusual weight loss, malnutrition, dehydration.
- Untreated physical problems, such as pressure sores.
- Unsanitary living conditions: dirt, bugs, soiled bedding and clothes.
- Being left dirty or unbathed.
- Unsuitable clothing or covering for the weather
- In children: a failure to meet a child's basic needs; medical care; emotional needs, inadequate food, clothing, hygiene etc.

## Glossary of terms and other useful information for safeguarding

**Alert:** An alert is a concern that an individual is or may be a victim of exploitation, neglect or abuse. Alerts can also be raised for people who are at risk. Anyone can raise an alert.

**Assessment:** An assessment is a process put in place that identifies the needs of an individual, whether these needs are being met and how their wellbeing and day to day life are being impacted.

**Care Planning:** All individuals receiving care and support regardless of their age should be subject to a care plan. A care plan can take many different forms. It is essentially the document that outlines how the individual's needs should be met and any potential risks arising from that care. A care plan should be subject to regular reviews.

### Domestic abuse

Domestic abuse refers to any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over. This also includes those who are or have been intimate partners or family members.

### Harm

Harm refers to any ill-treatment including sexual abuse and ill-treatment that isn't physical, the avoidable deterioration and or impairment in physical or mental health. of physical, intellectual, emotional, social or behavioural development.

**Hate crime:** This is any crime that is thought to be a crime that's been committed against someone for racist, homophobic, transphobic reasons. This may also be due to a person's religion, belief, gender identity or disability.

**Learning from Incidents:** If an incident or near miss incident has occurred you may be asked to share what you had seen or witnessed. For this reason it will be helpful to keep notes of dates and times in order to support any enquiries. Your views observations may be requested to support learning from incidents.

**Mate Crime:** This is a form of exploitation where a person is harmed or taken advantage of by person they believed was their friend.

**Neglect:** Is an act or omission that leads to harm to a person in need of care and support. Such as failure to respond to changing needs or provide treatment.

**Statutory Duty:** This means the laws that a company, a government organization, or the members of a particular profession must obey.

**A looked after child** is a child under the care of the local authority. There are 2 two primary routes into becoming a looked after child. Under section 20 of the Children Act (1989), children and young people can be 'accommodated' by the local authority with the consent of those with Parental responsibility or children being made the subject of a Care Order under section 31 Children Act. Other routes that bring children into the care system could include: where a child has been removed from the parents or carers under an Emergency Protection Order and is then potentially subject to an Interim Care Order and care proceedings; where a child has been removed from their home under a Child Assessment Order; where a child has been removed to suitable accommodation under police protection; where a juvenile has been remanded in care and refused bail. Looked after children are

one of the most vulnerable groups in our society.

**The Children Act** The Children Act 1989 provides a comprehensive framework for the care and protection of children. It centres on the welfare of children up to their 18th birthday. It defines parental responsibility and encourages partnership working with parents. Interagency co-operation is encouraged

**Parental Responsibility is defined in the Children Act 1989 as being:** *“all the rights, duties, powers, responsibilities and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property”*. Parental Responsibility means the power to make important decisions in relation to a child.

**Consent** refers to the individual’s voluntary and continuing permission for an intervention. The individual must have adequate knowledge of the reason nature, likely consequences and risks of that intervention.

**Mental Capacity** is used to describe whether an individual has the ability to make an informed decision. Mental capacity to make decisions is always assumed unless it is proven otherwise. This is decision and time specific. The code of practice in The Mental Capacity Act 2005 outlines how someone who lacks the capacity should be supported when they make a decision. This does not apply to children under the age of 16.

#### **Self-Neglect**

Sometimes an individual may choose to deliberately neglect themselves this may mean an assessment is needed to determine if a safeguarding response may be required. This does not apply to children.



**The NHS Safeguarding app** continues to support frontline staff and citizens with 24-hour, mobile access to up to date safeguarding guidance and local contacts to report safeguarding concerns.

It provides an overview of necessary legislation and guidance covering both children and adults safeguarding as well as an NHS staff guide and contains regional contact information on how to report a safeguarding concern, as well as links to national bodies and for healthcare staff to have a one stop sign posting and safeguarding information.

It can be accessed via [Apple iOS](#), [Google Play](#) or it can be downloaded by visiting your device’s appropriate app store and searching for ‘NHS Safeguarding’.



Waltham Forest have made a short video:

<https://youtu.be/HHQG8CJROhU>

It is 3 mins long and gives a simple messages about safeguarding