



Information for people who may have caused harm or abuse



This information is for people who have been accused of causing harm or abuse to an adult who is at risk



This means that someone has been accused of hurting, neglecting or causing harm to a person who may receive or need extra support or care services (vulnerable adult)



When someone reports abuse that may have happened (alleged abuse) to Adult Social Care it is called a Safeguarding Concern



When a Safeguarding Concern is reported to Adult Social Care, a Safeguarding Enquiry may need to happen to protect adults at risk from harm



When someone says you have abused them, it can be a very stressful and difficult time

What is a Safeguarding Enquiry?



A Safeguarding Enquiry is to protect the adult at risk



Find out the facts about what happened



Understand the risk of harm to the person



Make a plan to keep the person safe in the future



The Safeguarding Enquiry may mean that meetings and interviews take place, procedures are checked and records may be looked into



Made by



Who will be involved?



- The Safeguarding Lead worker - This is a person from Adult Social Care. They could be a manager, nurse, social worker or another staff member. They talk to everyone and find out what happened



- Safeguarding Co-ordinator - They make sure the Safeguarding Enquiry is completed properly



- Independent Chair- They make sure you are listened to



- Professionals like managers, nurses, social workers



- The Police may need to be at some meetings



- People who can help us understand the risks of harm or actions we need to take to keep people safe



- Note taker

What happens during a Safeguarding Enquiry?



The reason we do Safeguarding Enquiries is to keep people safe in the future



If your actions have caused someone harm they may not be able to have contact with you in the future



If the alleged harm or abuse has happened because you need more help and support, your care and services will be reviewed



If you do not have the ability to make your own decisions a best interests decision may be taken



You may wish to get support from family, friends, an advocate, support group or network



Some people may want to take advice from a solicitor



All information about the adult at risk must be treated as confidential information

Other things that could happen outside of the Safeguarding Enquiry



You may have to go to meetings at work about what has happened and the rules at work



The police may want to speak to you if a crime has been committed

Being as fair as possible



The enquiry will be about finding facts



The Safeguarding Enquiry will not be about judging you and we will only be interested in safeguarding the adult at risk of harm or abuse



You will be able to speak to us about your views on what happened

If you have any questions

If you have any questions you can speak to your:



- Safeguarding Lead worker



- Social Worker



- Nurse

Reviewing the findings of the Enquiry



A decision will be made about the incident and if it was abuse or not



What you say will be included in the decision



You will be told what is happening, unless it means someone else will be at risk of harm



A Safeguarding Enquiry review meeting may take place



Decisions will be made about peoples safety. This may happen during the Safeguarding Enquiry review meeting if there are serious risks to peoples safety



This is when people involved in the Safeguarding Enquiry and people who are helping to keep the person safe, talk about what the enquiry found out



The person who may have been harmed could also be there



You may be invited to talk about your actions, unless it could mean a risk of more harm

What if I disagree that my actions caused Harm, abuse or neglect?



If you disagree with the decision talk to the:



- Enquiry review manager



- Independent Chair of the meeting



- Make a complaint to your Council where the investigation took place

Work



If the allegation of abuse happened at work then your organisation will need to provide you with support



You can get support from your manager, family, friends, union body, support network or professional body



The safeguarding process is required by law if someone is seen to be at risk of harm. This is not a legal process however some people may wish to speak to a solicitor



You can get help from the Citizens Advice Bureau for work



If you are in a voluntary job, you can speak to Poole Council for Voluntary Services or Bournemouth Council for Voluntary Services



Your manager at work will tell you if they need to make changes to you work



If your manager is not aware that you are facing a Safeguarding Enquiry and you work with adults at risk, you must tell them

Information for carers or family members



If you are a relative or carer of the person at risk of harm or abuse and something has happened by accident because:



Your needs as a carer are not met

You do not understand the needs of the person you are caring for



The needs of the person will be reviewed. If the person is not able to make decisions by themselves, a best interests decision may be made

Information for other adults at risk to have caused abuse or neglect



The purpose of the Safeguarding Adults policy is to keep people safe



If your actions have caused someone else to be abused or neglected then it will be very important that they are kept safe in the future



Decisions may need to be made about you seeing the person in the future
They will decide how often you can see them and how the person can be kept safe when you see them



If this happened because you need more support or a different kind of support, then your needs and services will be reviewed. This will be talked about with you



If you are not able to make decisions for yourself then a best interests decision may be made

For more information



You can find more information on the website:



www.bpsafeguardingadultsboard.com