



PENNYWELL NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE

COMMUNITY & HEALTH RESOURCE PROJECT, PENNYWELL SHOPPING CENTRE,
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Safeguarding Adults at Risk of Harm Procedures

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Contents

1 Procedures	2
1.1 Flowchart for referral for actual or suspected abuse of an adult at risk of abuse or neglect	3
Full procedures for safeguarding leads	4
Questions to ask yourself when deciding whether to make a referral based on a concern	4
PREVENT: Vulnerable to radicalisation (VTR) or influenced by Extremism	5
GUIDANCE NOTES FOR RECOGNISING VTR.....	6
Who is Vulnerable to Radicalisation?.....	6
Managing allegations against people in positions of trust (POT)	7
Raising a concern	8
Resignations and “COMPROMISE AGREEMENTS”	8
Appendix A - ABUSE TYPES AND INDICATORS	9

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS AT RISK OF HARM OR NEGLECT PROCEDURES

1 Procedures

- Staff must respect an “absolute and unequivocal” duty of care to protect service users from harm.
- Staff will be alert to the possibility of abuse
- Staff will respond to all concerns, worries, suspicions, disclosures, allegations. Where there is a safeguarding concern staff cannot keep information about abuse confidential. Inform the Safeguarding Officer at the earliest opportunity. Where there is evidence of immediate risk or threat then the Safeguarding Officer must be informed straight away. If the Safeguarding Officer is not available then Safeguarding Adults Team must be informed. See ‘Flowchart for Referral’.
- Staff must follow the procedure in the flowchart below for reporting safeguarding concerns.

Safeguarding Officers

Nominated Adult at Risk Lead Safeguarding Officer

Name: Gary Brooks
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Deputy Adult at Risk Lead Safeguarding Officer

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Trustee Senior Lead for Safeguarding and Child Protection

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Contacts

Safeguarding Adults Team - Sunderland City Council

0191 5618934 or 0191 5618936 (8.30am to 5:15pm Monday - Thursday, 8.30am to 4.45pm Friday);
or 0191 520 5552 – Health and Well-Being Team (outside the above hours)

In an emergency always call 999

Safeguarding adults at risk of harm procedures

1.1 FLOWCHART FOR REFERRAL FOR ACTUAL OR SUSPECTED ABUSE OF AN ADULT AT RISK OF HARM

We are all responsible for reporting concerns about an adult at risk of abuse's safety and welfare. Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

Concerns

Suspicion/allegation of abuse by: personal disclosure, observation, report by another person, anonymous communication



Consult

Speak with the Safeguarding Lead or Deputy Safeguarding Lead. Use the Safeguarding Adults Framework to support the discussion and decide if it meets the threshold for a safeguarding referral
IMPORTANT: It is not your responsibility to decide if abuse has happened. It IS your responsibility to report it to the Safeguarding Lead, and/ or appropriate authority



Action reporting for Adults at Risk **DO NOT INVESTIGATE**

It is essential that wherever possible it is the adult at risk who will decide on the chosen course of action, taking into account the impact of the adult at risk's mental capacity where relevant.

However, the people and organisations caring for, or assisting them, must do everything they can to identify and prevent abuse happening wherever possible and evidence their efforts.

Pennywell Neighbourhood Centre's Safeguarding Lead/Deputy would normally make the referral. You would only make the referral if a delay in contacting either of them would put a vulnerable person at risk.

You must notify Pennywell Neighbourhood Centre's Safeguarding Lead asap of any referral you make

To make a safeguarding referral use the Safeguarding Adults Concern (SAC) form. This is downloadable from the Sunderland City Council website.



Commitment

You may be required to provide other information, as required.

Remember ALL notes will be disclosable should a formal or criminal investigation occur. *Make sure that your notes are dated, professional, separate opinion from fact, use the same words as were used during the disclosure, do not change words.*

RECORD Sign and Date

Contacts:

Safeguarding Referrals: Safeguarding Adults Team, 0191 5618934 or 0191 5618936.

Professionals wanting guidance on making a referral call the Integrated Contact and Referral Team on 0191 5205560

Call the police on 999 if it is an emergency

Full procedures for safeguarding leads

Staff must make it clear to anyone who shares information with them that will have to pass it on and follow this procedure in order to ensure that no one else is at risk, to prevent a crime or to protect them if they cannot protect themselves from harm.

If we are unsure that a safeguarding referral is needed, we will call the Integrated Contact and Referral Team on 0191 5205560 to speak with a MASH social worker. Safeguarding referrals are not made via the MASH number above, we will use it for consultation purposes only.

If we have a concern about an adult and need to make a safeguarding referral, we use the Safeguarding Adults Concern (SAC) form. This is downloadable from the Sunderland City Council website: www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/14086/Report-a-Safeguarding-concern-professionals-and-volunteers

The completed form must then be emailed to this email address: safeguarding.adults@sunderland.gov.uk

If we cannot use the form, we will make the referral to Safeguarding Adults Team on 0191 5618934 or 0191 5618936.

We will call 999 and inform the emergency services in an emergency situation.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF WHEN DECIDING WHETHER TO MAKE A REFERRAL BASED ON A CONCERN

Have we consulted the Safeguarding Adults Framework document?

1. Are the three safeguarding threshold criteria met?
 - Do they have care and support needs?
 - Are they experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect?
 - as a result of their care and support needs they are unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it?

Remember that being safe is only one part of a person's life. Wellbeing, learning and quality of life are also important factors.

2. What is the concern?
3. What are the person's personal preferences and circumstances that create a proportionate tolerance of acceptable risk?
4. What would be a proportionate intervention to the potential risk?
5. What is/are the vulnerability/ vulnerabilities of the adult?
6. What is the nature and extent of the abuse?
7. How long has the abuse been occurring?
8. What is the impact of the abuse on the individual?
9. What is the risk of repeated or increasingly serious acts involving the adult or other adults?
10. What is the equality of the relationship between the adult and the alleged abuser?
11. Are there similar allegations against the alleged abuser?
12. Is the person safe?
13. Do you have consent to share, if not is there an overriding public interest or vital interest to share the information without consent? e.g. Is any one else at risk? Could a crime have happened/ be about to happen? There is a high risk to the health and safety of the adult at risk

You must make a referral if..

- The adult considers they are being abused
- The adult is caused distress or there is a deliberate attempt to cause the adult distress
- Incidents are repetitive and targeted
- A crime has been committed
- The incident involves a member of staff

Staff will follow the operational guidance on 'Making Safeguarding Personal'

This includes the following;

- Seeing people as experts in their own lives and working alongside them in a way that is consistent with their rights and capacity and that prevents abuse occurring wherever possible.
- Person-led and outcome focussed safeguarding, engaging the adult at risk in a conversation about how best to respond to their safeguarding situation in a way that enhances involvement, choice and control as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety. Listening to the person and providing options that permit them to help themselves
- Recognising different preferences, histories, circumstances and lifestyles
- Wherever possible the adult at risk will decide on the chosen course of action, taking into account the impact of the adult at risk's mental capacity where relevant. However, staff caring or assisting them must do everything they can to identify and prevent abuse from happening wherever possible and evidence their efforts.

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PREVENT: VULNERABLE TO RADICALISATION (VTR) OR INFLUENCED BY EXTREMISM

Staff may notice a change in an adult's behaviour that may suggest they are vulnerable to violent extremism. We will follow the Sunderland City Council Guidance on Preventing Radicalisation and the Prevent Duty.

After having discussed concerns with appropriate colleagues, being mindful of confidentiality, where the staff member still has concerns that the individual may be vulnerable to violent extremism, a referral form is to be completed at www.sunderland.gov.uk/safeguarding.

For urgent safeguarding concerns call the Safeguarding Adults Team on 0191 5618934 or 0191 5618936.

UNLIKE SAFEGUARDING STAFF MUST NOT DISCUSS CONCERNS WITH THE INDIVIDUAL PRIOR TO REFERRAL

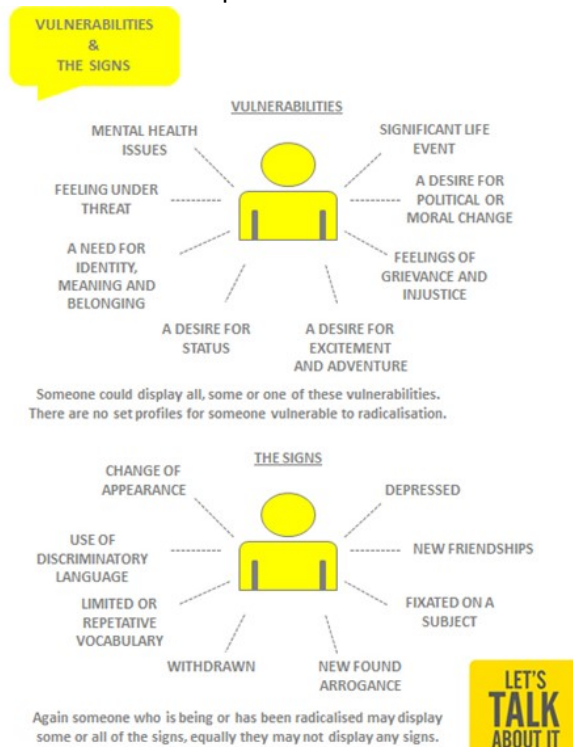
GUIDANCE NOTES FOR RECOGNISING VTR

WHO IS VULNERABLE TO RADICALISATION?

People who are vulnerable to radicalisation come from all walks of life, genders, ages and social groups, income levels, professions etc.

There is no profile for someone who could be drawn into terrorism.

Extremism is any form of extremism; this includes extreme right wing views, animal rights issues as well as religious views. It is unhelpful to have a narrow view of who can be VTR. It is important to keep an open mind. Looking at the factors associated with a person who becomes vulnerable to it can be helpful to look at. They include;



This guide is to help you refer concerns about an individual who may be vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. Below are questions which may help you to quantify and structure your concerns. The list is not exhaustive and other factors may be present but they are intended as a guide to help communicate your professional judgement about what has led you to make a referral.

Faith / ideology

- Are they new to a particular faith / faith strand?
- Do they seem to have naïve or narrow religious or political views?
- Have there been sudden changes in their observance, behaviour, interaction or attendance at their place of worship / organised meeting?
- Have there been specific examples or is there an undertone of “Them and Us “language or violent rhetoric being used or behaviour occurring?
- Is there evidence of increasing association with a closed tight knit group of individuals / known recruiters / extremists / restricted events?
- Are there particular grievances either personal or global that appear to be unresolved / festering?
- Has there been an increase in unusual travel abroad without satisfactory explanation?

Personal / emotional / social issues

- Is there conflict with their families regarding religious beliefs / lifestyle choices?
- Is there evidence of cultural anxiety and / or isolation linked to insularity / lack of integration? Is there evidence of increasing isolation from family, friends or groups towards a smaller group of individuals or a known location?

- Is there history in petty criminality and / or unusual hedonistic behaviour (alcohol/drug use, casual sexual relationships, and addictive behaviours)?
- Have they got / had extremist propaganda materials (DVD's, CD's, leaflets etc.) in their possession?
- Do they associate with negative / criminal peers or known groups of concern?
- Are there concerns regarding their emotional stability and or mental health?
- Is there evidence of participation in survivalist / combat simulation activities, e.g. paint balling?

Risk / Protective Factors

- What are the specific factors which are contributing towards making the individual more vulnerable to radicalisation? E.g; mental health, language barriers, cultural anxiety, impressionability, criminality, specific grievance, transitional period in life etc.
- Is there any evidence of others targeting or exploiting these vulnerabilities or risks?
- What factors are already in place or could be developed to firm up support for the individual or help them increase their resilience to negative influences? E.g. positive family ties, employment, mentor / agency input etc.

MANAGING ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PEOPLE IN POSITIONS OF TRUST (POT)

The Care Act statutory guidance (March 2016, 14.120 to 14.132), sets out the responsibilities of the Safeguarding Adults Board, its partners, and those providing universal care and support services, when managing allegations in relation to 'people in positions of trust' who may pose a risk to adults with care and support needs.

This procedure replaces the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) role and set out a formal mechanism by which safeguarding allegations made against professionals who work with adults at risk of abuse were dealt with.

An employee, volunteer, or student (paid or unpaid) working with an adult with care and support needs will be referred to hereafter as a 'person in a position of trust'.

Whilst the focus of safeguarding adults work is to safeguard one or more identified adults with care and support needs, there are occasions when incidents are reported that do not involve an adult with care and support needs, but indicate, nevertheless, that a risk may be posed to adults with care and support needs by a person in a position of trust.

It is the responsibility of employers, student bodies and voluntary organisations to have their own procedures regarding people in a position of trust when allegations are made against them. Legal advice should be sought by employers, student bodies and voluntary organisations when appropriate.

This procedure must be followed when there is an allegation that a person who works with adults with care and support needs in a position of trust has:

- A. Behaved (or alleged to have behaved) in a way that has harmed, or may have harmed an adult with care and support needs and it becomes apparent that they have another role working with adults with care and support needs
- B. Behaved (or alleged to have behaved) in a way that indicated that they pose a risk to adults with care and support needs. This could possibly be a criminal offence even if the offence does not relate to a person with care and support needs.
- C. Behaved in a way towards children which means they may pose a risk of harm to adults with care and support needs.

Examples of the above include:

- A. A formal safeguarding Section 42 enquiry is undertaken in relation to a carer working at a residential care home and during that enquiry information is received that they also work for a care at home provider (domiciliary care provider)
- B. A person is subject to police investigation for domestic abuse to a partner, and undertakes voluntary work with adults with care and support needs

- C. A person who is allegedly failing to protect a child (subject to formal proceedings under the Children Act 1989) and is undertaking professional training to work with adults with care and support needs.

If you are concerned that a member of staff is becoming a person Vulnerable to Radicalisation (VTR) or being Influenced by Extremism ensure a VTR referral form is completed.

Raising a concern

If we have a (POT) concern and need to make a safeguarding referral, we use the Safeguarding Adults Concern (SAC) form. This is downloadable from the Sunderland City Council website:
www.sunderland.gov.uk/article/14086/Report-a-Safeguarding-concern-professionals-and-volunteers

The completed form must then be emailed to this email address: safeguarding.adults@sunderland.gov.uk

If we cannot use the form, we will make the referral to Safeguarding Adults Team on 0191 5618934 or 0191 5618936.

Resignations and “COMPROMISE AGREEMENTS”

The fact that a person tenders his or her resignation or ceases to provide their services must not prevent an allegation from being followed up in accordance with these procedures and a conclusion reached.

A so called “compromise agreement” by which a person agrees to resign, the employer agrees not to pursue disciplinary action and both agree a form of words to be used in any future reference must not be used in situations which are relevant to these procedures.

In any event, such an agreement will not prevent a thorough police investigation where appropriate.

Wherever possible the person should be given a full opportunity to answer the allegation and make representations about the allegation. The investigation should continue to a conclusion even if the person refuses to cooperate.

ABUSE TYPES AND INDICATORS

The lists below are purely for Operational Guidance. The presence of one or more does not automatically confirm abuse. The existence of a number of the indicators may, however, suggest a potential for abuse and should therefore necessitate further assessment or scrutiny. If there is any concern at all about the possibility of abuse then advice should be sought and an alert should be submitted to Safeguarding Adults Team without delay.

Abuse can generally be viewed in terms of the following categories; Physical, Domestic, Sexual, Psychological, Financial/ material, Modern Slavery, Discriminatory, Organisational, Neglect and acts of omission, and Self-neglect.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical injuries which have no satisfactory explanation or where there is a definite knowledge, or a reasonable suspicion that the injury was inflicted with intent, or through lack of care, by the person having custody, charge or care of that person, including hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of or lack of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.

Possible Indicators of physical abuse

- History of unexplained falls or minor injuries
- Unexplained bruising – in well protected areas, on the soft parts of the body or clustered as from repeated striking
- Unexplained burns in an unusual location or of an unusual type
- Unexplained fractures to any part of the body that may be at various stages in the healing process
- Unexplained lacerations or abrasions
- Slap, kick, pinch or finger marks
- Injuries/bruises found at different stages of healing for which it is difficult to suggest an accidental cause
- Injury shape similar to an object
- Untreated medical problems
- Weight loss – due to malnutrition or dehydration; complaints of hunger
- Appearing to be over medicated

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse can also involve the abuse of an 'adult at risk'. Safeguarding Adults procedures only apply where the adult:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- 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. (Sec 42 Care Act)

The Government definition of domestic abuse is: 'Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over (Safeguarding Adults applies from age 18) who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- emotional
- 'Honour' based violence
- Female Genital Mutilation
- forced marriage

'Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.' (Home Office 2013) Agencies that are concerned that an adult is subject to domestic abuse consider a referral to a multi-agency risk assessment conference (MARAC).

Action should always be taken to pass on referrals for all incidents of domestic abuse relating to adults at risk, to Safeguarding Adults Team. Where the victim is not an adult at risk, concerns should be raised directly with the police.

The Government definition of domestic abuse, which is not a legal definition, includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and is clear that victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group. Below is a brief outline of Honour Based Violence, FGM and Forced Marriage. Please visit the Adult Safeguarding Board website for the full Honour Based Violence and Forced Marriage policies.

HONOUR BASED VIOLENCE

Honour Based Violence (HBV) is a crime or incident which has or may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family or community. It is a collection of practices used to control behaviour within families or other social groups, to protect perceived cultural and religious beliefs and/or honour. Such violence can occur when a relative has shamed the family and/or community by breaking their honour code.

Women are predominately but not exclusively the victims of so called Honour Based Violence which is used to assert male power in order to control female autonomy and sexuality. Honour Based Violence can be disguised from other forms of violence as it is often committed with some degree of approval and/or collusion from family and/or community members. Such crimes cut across all cultures, nationalities, faith groups and communities and should be referred within existing adult protection procedures where the victim is an 'adult at risk' as defined by the Care Act 2014.

Where adults at risk are identified as being victims of, involved in, or witness to Honour Based Violence, contact should be made with Safeguarding Adults Team on 0191 5618934 or 0191 5618936. Victims of Honour Based Violence can also access help and advice from Karma Nirvana at www.karmanirvana.org.uk or by contacting 0800 5999247.

FORCED MARRIAGE

A forced marriage is where one or both people do not (or in cases of people lacking the mental capacity to make the relevant decisions, cannot) consent to the marriage and pressure or abuse is used. Forced marriage is recognised in the UK as a form of violence against women and men, domestic/child abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.

The pressure put on people to marry against their will can be physical (including threats, actual physical violence and sexual violence) or emotional and psychological (for example, when someone is made to feel like they are bringing shame on their family). Financial abuse (removal of wages or deprivation of finances or necessities) can also be a factor.

All Forced Marriage alerts relating to adults at risk are to be submitted to the Safeguarding Adults Team on 0191 5618934 or 0191 5618936. Further support can be accessed via the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU). The FMU is a joint Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Office unit which was set up in January 2005 to lead on the Government's forced marriage policy, outreach and casework. It operates both inside the UK, where support is provided to any individual, and overseas, where consular assistance is provided to British nationals, including dual nationals.

The FMU operates a public helpline to provide advice and support to victims of forced marriage as well as to professionals dealing with cases. The assistance provided ranges from simple safety advice, through to aiding a victim to prevent their unwanted spouse moving to the UK ('reluctant sponsor' cases), and, in extreme circumstances, to rescue victims held against their will overseas. Tel: +44 (0) 20 7008 0151.

Victims of Forced Marriage can also access help and advice from Karma Nirvana at www.karmanirvana.org.uk or by contacting 0800 5999247.

It is important to remember the following when addressing issues of Forced Marriage and/or Honour-based violence:

DO NOT go directly to, share information with, or use as an interpreter a relative, friend, neighbour, community leader or other with influence in the community. This will alert them to your enquiries and may place the adult at further risk.

DO NOT attempt to give the person immigration advice. It is a criminal offence for any unqualified person to give this advice.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

Female genital mutilation/ FGM (sometimes referred to as female circumcision) refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is illegal in the UK. Girls under the age of 15 are mainly at risk but it is important for everyone working with adults at risk to be mindful of this practice and refer any concerns to Safeguarding Adults Team if they believe that the adult within the family may be at risk of FGM. The police and Health colleagues will be notified in the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub.

SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual acts which might be abusive include non-contact abuse such as looking, pornographic photography, indecent exposure, harassment, unwanted teasing or innuendo, or contact such as touching breasts, genitals, or anus, masturbation, penetration or attempted penetration of vagina, anus, and mouth with or by penis, fingers or other objects (rape).

Possible Indicators of sexual abuse

- A change in usual behaviour for no apparent or obvious reason
- Sudden onset of confusion, wetting or soiling
- Withdrawal, choosing to spend the majority of time alone
- Overt sexual behaviour/language by the adult at risk
- Disturbed sleep pattern and poor concentration • Difficulty in walking or sitting
- Torn, stained, bloody underclothes
- Love bites
- Pain or itching, bruising or bleeding in the genital area
- Sexually transmitted urinary tract/vaginal infections
- Bruising to the thighs and upper arms
- Frequent infections
- Severe upset or agitation when being bathed/dressed/undressed/medically examined
- Pregnancy in a person not able to consent

PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE

Psychological, or emotional abuse, includes the use of threats, fears or bribes to negate an adult at risk's choices, independent wishes and self-esteem; cause isolation or overdependence (as might be signalled by impairment of development or performance); or prevent an adult at risk from using services, which would provide help.

Possible Indicators of psychological abuse

- Ambivalence about carer
- Fearfulness expressed in the eyes; avoids looking at the carer, flinching on approach
- Deference
- Overtly affectionate behaviour to alleged source of risk
- Insomnia/sleep deprivation or need for excessive sleep
- Change in appetite
- Unusual weight gain/loss
- Tearfulness
- Unexplained paranoia
- Low self-esteem
- Excessive fears
- Confusion
- Agitation

FINANCIAL ABUSE

This usually involves an individual's funds or resources being inappropriately used by a third person (i.e. theft) It includes the withholding of money or the inappropriate or unsanctioned use of a person's money or property or the entry of the adult at risk into financial contracts or transactions that they do not understand, to their disadvantage.

Possible Indicators of financial abuse

- Unexplained or sudden inability to pay bills
- Unexplained or sudden withdrawal of money from accounts
- Person lacks belongings or services, which they can clearly afford
- Lack of receptiveness to any necessary assistance requiring expenditure, when finances are not a problem – although the natural thriftiness of some people should be borne in mind
- Extraordinary interest by family members and other people in the adult at risk's assets
- Power of Attorney obtained when the adult at risk is not able to understand the purpose of the document they are signing
- Recent change of deeds or title of property
- Unpaid carer or support worker only asks questions of the worker about the user's financial affairs and does not appear to be concerned about the physical or emotional care of the person
- The person who manages the financial affairs is evasive or uncooperative
- A reluctance or refusal to take up care assessed as being needed
- A high level of expenditure without evidence of the person benefiting
- The purchase of items which the person does not require or use
- Personal items going missing from the home
- Unreasonable and /or inappropriate gifts

MODERN SLAVERY

Modern slavery encompasses human trafficking, domestic servitude and forced labour. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

Possible indicators of modern slavery

- Marked isolation from the community
- Seeming under the control and influence of others and relying on others to communicate on their behalf
- Restricted freedom of movement
- Unusual travel times
- Unfamiliarity with the local neighbourhood
- Signs of physical or psychological abuse such as looking malnourished or unkempt or appearing withdrawn
- Poor living conditions such as unhygienic, overcrowded accommodation or living and working at the same address
- Few or no personal effects and no identification documents
- Reluctance to seek help often characterized by hesitance to speak to strangers or professionals and limited eye contact
- Fear of law enforcement

This list is not exhaustive. The signs of slavery are often hidden, making it difficult to recognise victims. Where modern slavery is suspected and the victim is an adult at risk, a Safeguarding Adults referral should be made to Safeguarding Adults Team on 0191 5618934 or 0191 5618936. All other victims should be referred to the police directly by dialling 101.

However, if you think a person is in immediate danger, call 999 and ask for the police.

Advice and Guidance can be sought from the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700.

DISCRIMINATORY ABUSE

This is abuse targeted at a perceived vulnerability or on the basis of prejudice including racism or sexism, or based on a person's impairment, origin, colour, disability, age, illness, sexual orientation or gender. It can take any of the other forms of abuse, oppressive treatment, harassment, slurs or similar treatment. Discriminatory abuse may be used to describe serious, repeated or pervasive discrimination, which leads to

significant harm or exclusion from mainstream opportunities, provision of poor standards of health care, and/or which represents a failure to protect or provide redress through the criminal or civil justice system.

Possible Indicators of discriminatory abuse

- Hate mail
- Verbal or physical abuse in public places or residential settings
- Criminal damage to property
- Target of distraction burglary, bogus officials or unrequested building/household services
- Discriminatory abuse can manifest itself as the other types of abuse; physical or sexual abuse/ assault, financial abuse/ theft, neglect, psychological abuse.

ORGANISATIONAL ABUSE

Organisational abuse happens when the routines in use force residents or service users to sacrifice their own needs, wishes or preferred lifestyle to the needs of the institution or service provider. Abuse may be a source of risk from an individual or by a group of staff embroiled in the accepted custom, subculture and practice of the institution or service.

Possible Indicators of Organisational Abuse

- Organisations may include residential and nursing homes, hospitals, day centres, sheltered housing schemes, group or supported housing projects. It should be noted that all organisations and services, whatever their setting, can have institutional practices which can cause harm to adults at risk.
- It may be reflected in an enforced schedule of activities, the limiting of personal freedom, the control of personal finances, a lack of adequate clothing, poor personal hygiene, a lack of stimulating activities or a low quality diet – in fact, anything which treats the person concerned as not being entitled to a 'normal' life.

The distinction between abuse in institutions and poor care standards is not easily made and judgements about whether an event or situation is abusive should be made with advice from appropriate professionals and regulatory bodies.

DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS)

The Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (SVGA) places a legal duty on employers in the health and social care sector and personnel suppliers to refer any person to the Disclosure and Barring Service who has:

- Harmed or poses a risk of harm to an adult at risk of abuse;
- Satisfied the harm test; or
- Received a caution or conviction for a relevant offence.

Practitioners are therefore advised to check that a DBS referral has been submitted where staff named as the alleged abuser are dismissed as a result of their conduct or resign prior to the conclusion of a Section 42 Enquiry.

Abuse of Staff Although abuse of staff by service users or other staff is a very serious matter which requires immediate action, the Safeguarding Adults policy is not appropriate to address this situation. In these circumstances, the staff member should be assisted via THE ORG's internal HR (Human Resources) procedures. Appropriate intervention can also be sought for the service user, such as referral for an unscheduled review by the area cluster or assessment by a health professional.

NEGLECT / ACTS OF OMISSION

Neglect can be both physical and emotional. It is about the failure to keep an adult at risk clean, warm and promote optimum health, or to provide adequate nutrition, medication, being prevented from making choices. Neglect of a duty of care or the breakdown of a care package may also give rise to safeguarding issues i.e. where a carer refuses access or if a care provider is unable, unwilling or neglects to meet assessed needs. If the circumstances mean that the 'adult at risk' is at risk of significant harm, then Safeguarding Adults procedures should be invoked.

Possible Indicators of neglect

- Poor condition of accommodation
- Inadequate heating and/or lighting
- Physical condition of person poor, e.g. ulcers, pressure sores etc.
- Person's clothing in poor condition, e.g. unclean, wet, etc.

- Malnutrition
- Failure to give prescribed medication or appropriate medical care
- Failure to ensure appropriate privacy and dignity
- Inconsistent or reluctant contact with health and social agencies
- Refusal of access to callers/visitors

A person with capacity may choose to self-neglect, and whilst it may be a symptom of a form of abuse it is not abuse in itself within the definition of these procedures.

WILLFUL NEGLECT AND ILL-TREATMENT

Section 44 of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 and Section 127 of the Mental Health Act 1983 make it a criminal offence to ill-treat or wilfully neglect a person who lacks the capacity to care for themselves, or where the 'abuser' believes the individual lacks capacity.

The abuser is committing an offence when they are responsible for the care of the adult at risk and they wilfully neglect or ill treat them. This includes paid carers, senior staff or managers in a hands-off role, family carers, any done of a lasting power of attorney or court appointed deputy.

The terms 'ill-treatment' or 'wilful neglect' are not defined in either the Mental Health Act or Mental Capacity Act. In addition, the offences are separate.

Wilful neglect means deliberate failure to do something that was a duty, often with an element of recklessness. It does not require any proof of any particular harm or distress or proof of the risk harm. Ill-treatment involves deliberate conduct which ill-treats a person who lacks mental capacity to make the relevant decisions, whether or not it causes any harm to them. Ill-treatment also involves a guilty mind, with the alleged abuser having an appreciation that he or she was inexcusably or recklessly ill-treating the adult.

Most of the indicators of the other types of abuse may also indicate wilful neglect or ill treatment if the adult at risk lacks the mental capacity to make the relevant decisions so these two offences should always be considered with each allegation of abuse in such circumstances.

SELF-NEGLECT

Self-neglect differs from the other forms of abuse listed here because it does not involve a perpetrator. Self-neglect is failing to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings in such a way that causes, or is reasonably likely to cause significant physical, mental or emotional harm or substantial damage to or loss of assets. Self-neglect falls into the Safeguarding Adults remit when the adult meets the requirements of the three stage test. Self-neglect can happen as a result of an individual's choice of lifestyle or the person may have

- depression or other mental health condition,
- poor physical health,
- cognitive difficulties
- substance misuse

Possible indicators of self-neglect

- Living in grossly unsanitary conditions which endangers health and wellbeing
- Grossly inadequate self-grooming or personal care and/ or inappropriate or inadequate clothing.
- Maintaining an untreated illness, disease or injury or lacking eyeglasses, dentures, hearing aids, etc.
- Being malnourished or dehydrated to such an extent that, without intervention, the adult's physical or mental health is likely to be severely impaired
- Creating severely hazardous living conditions that will likely cause serious physical harm to the adult or others or cause substantial damage to or loss of assets, such as severe hoarding, improper wiring, lack of indoor plumbing or heating, infestation
- Managing one's assets in a manner that is likely to cause substantial damage to or loss of assets

The scope of this policy does not include issues of risk associated with deliberate self-harm. However, it may be appropriate to address the concerns by raising a Safeguarding Alert if:

- The self-harm appears to have occurred due to an act(s) of neglect or inaction by another individual or service

- There appears to be a failure by regulated professionals or organisations to act within their professional codes of conduct
- Actions or omissions by third parties to provide necessary care or support where they have a duty either as a care worker, volunteer or family member to provide such care/ support.

SELF-NEGLECT & HOARDING

The Care Act Guidance states that self-neglect covers a wide range of behaviour; neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

Self-neglect involves the complex interplay of physical, mental, social, personal and environmental factors, all of which must be explored in order to understand the meaning of self-neglect in the context of each individual's life experience.

Hoarding is now considered a standalone mental disorder and is included in the 5th edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) 2013, however, hoarding can also be a symptom of other mental disorders. Hoarding disorder is distinct from the act of collecting, it is not simply a lifestyle choice and is also different from people whose property is generally cluttered or messy.

RADICALISATION

Radicalisation is not included as an abuse type in the Care Act Guidance. It is however important to include it to raise awareness and provide operational guidance to staff. The Prevent Strategy (Home Office 2011) recognises that the presence of key vulnerabilities such as Learning Disabilities, autism or Mental Health problems can increase an individual's susceptibility towards radicalisation and to be influenced by extremism. Channel is a key element of the Prevent strategy. It is a multi-agency approach to protect people at risk of radicalisation, using existing collaboration between local authorities, statutory partners (such as the education and health sectors, social services, children's and youth services and offender management services), the police and the local community to identify individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism.

The aim is to assess the nature and extent of that risk; and develop the most appropriate support plan for the individuals concerned. Early intervention is required to protect and divert people away from the risk they face before illegality occurs. There are a number of behaviours and other indicators that may indicate the presence of vulnerability.

Example indicators that an individual may be engaged with an extremist group, cause or ideology include:

- Increasingly spending time in the company of other suspected extremists;
- Changing their style of dress or personal appearance to accord with the group;
- Their day to day behaviour increasingly centred around an extremist ideology, group or cause;
 - Loss of interest in other friends and activities not associated with the extremist ideology, group or cause;
- Possession of material or symbols associated with an extremist cause (e.g. the swastika for far right groups);
- Attempts to recruit others to the group/cause/ideology; or
- Communications with others that suggest identification with a group/cause/ideology.

Example indicators that an individual has an intention to use violence or other illegal means include:

- Clearly identifying another group as threatening what they stand for and blaming that group for all social or political ills;
- Using insulting or derogatory names or labels for another group;
- Speaking about the imminence of harm from the other group and the importance of action now;
- Expressing attitudes that justify offending on behalf of the group, cause or ideology;
- Condoning or supporting violence or harm towards others;
- Plotting or conspiring with others. Example indicators that an individual is capable of contributing directly or indirectly to an act of terrorism include:
 - Having a history of violence;
 - Being criminally versatile and using criminal networks to support extremist goals;

- Having occupational skills that can enable acts of terrorism (such as civil engineering, pharmacology or construction);
- Having technical expertise that can be deployed (e.g. IT skills, knowledge of chemicals, military training or survival skills).

NB. The examples above are not exhaustive and vulnerability may manifest itself in other ways. There is no single route to terrorism nor is there a simple profile of those who become involved. For this reason, any attempt to derive a 'profile' can be misleading. It must not be assumed that these characteristics and experiences will necessarily lead to individuals becoming terrorists, or that these indicators are the only source of information required to make an appropriate assessment about vulnerability.

CRIME AND ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR

Antisocial behaviour is any aggressive, intimidating or destructive activity that damages or destroys another person's quality of life; defined by the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 as 'acting in a manner that caused or was likely to cause harassment, alarm or distress to one or more persons not of the same household as the defendant'.

Antisocial behaviour against an adult at risk should be referred under Safeguarding Procedures to the Safeguarding Adults Team on 0191 5618934 or 0191 5618936.