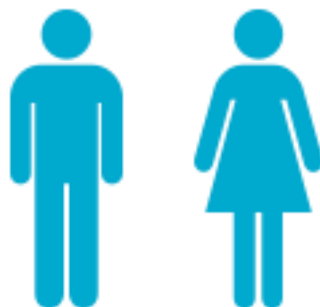


## Information for staff

# Adult safeguarding is everybody's responsibility

Safeguarding adults means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.



An adult at risk is any person who is aged 18 years or over and at risk of abuse or neglect because of their needs for care and/or support.

Where someone is over 18 but still receiving children's services and a safeguarding issue is raised, the matter should be dealt with as a matter of course by the adult safeguarding team.

You have a duty of care to your patients,  
service users and colleagues.  
Safeguarding is everybody's responsibility.

Putting you first

## The Care Act 2014

The Care Act 2014 has at its heart the following six principles for safeguarding adults that can provide a foundation for achieving good outcomes for patients:

**EMPOWERMENT:** Presumption of person-led decisions and informed consent.

**PREVENTION:** It is better to act before harm occurs.

**PROPORTIONALITY:** Proportionate and least-intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.

**PROTECTION:** Support and representation for those in greatest need.

**PARTNERSHIPS:** Local solutions through services working with their communities.

**ACCOUNTABILITY:** Accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

## Abuse and neglect

Abuse and neglect can take many forms. Organisations and individuals should remain non-judgemental when assessing the impact of the circumstances on the individual at that time.

Abuse includes:

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological abuse
- Modern slavery
- Financial or material abuse
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Self-neglect
- Domestic violence
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational abuse.

More information on each type of abuse can be found here:

[Abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults \(safeguarding\) - Social care and support guide - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) and [Layout 1 \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.layout1.nhs.uk)

## Mental capacity assessment

Five principles which underpin the Mental Capacity Act (MCA) 2005:

- Always assume capacity unless proved otherwise
- Take all practical steps to support an individual's decision-making
- Do not presume incapacity due to unwise decisions
- Always act in a person's best interest when they lack capacity
- Always use the least restrictive option.

## Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards - what are they?

The Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards 2009 (DoLS) are an amendment to the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

DoLS provide a legal framework to protect those who lack the capacity to consent to the arrangements for their treatment or care. This could be due to dementia, learning disability or brain injury, where the amount of restraint or restriction involved in protecting their safety deprives them of their liberty.

**To safeguard adults, we need to start thinking about discharge at time of admission. Things to consider:**

- Who lives at home? What are the home circumstances?
- What support is in place? Will they need more support upon discharge?
- Are they known to social services already?
- Are they known to other agencies in the community?
- Consider presentation: do they have good skin integrity, hydration levels and are their hygiene needs being met appropriately?
- Will they be safe on discharge?
- Should we add an alert to eCare?
- Does a referral to adult social care need to be made?
- Does the patient consent to this?
- What does the patient want? What is their voice?

## Assessing risk and worry

When assessing risk and worry, make sure you communicate with the patient and gain their consent for the actions you take forward.

Remember you are accountable for the actions you take and choose not to take. Ensure you have clear, factual and accurate documentation, written in a timely manner, that shows what you did/didn't do and the rationale for this decision-making.

To make a safeguarding referral to adult services, complete the 'cause for concern' form on Evolve (acute services) or an adult safeguarding referral through SystmOne (community services). Call Customer First on 08088 004005 to ensure receipt of the referral and add information to the patient's record.

### Safeguarding adults contacts

#### **West Suffolk Hospital**

t. 01284 712750 (ext. 2750)

e. [safeguardingadults@wsh.nhs.uk](mailto:safeguardingadults@wsh.nhs.uk)

Safeguarding nurse specialists:

Tony Green

Rachel Small

Domestic abuse nurse specialist:

Julia Dunn

Learning disability/autism liaison nurse specialist:

Emer O'Mahoney

Head of safeguarding:

Elizabeth Ellis

#### **In the community**

Adult safeguarding practitioner:

Marilyn Harvey

t. 07940 472222

e. [Marilyn.Harvey@esneft.nhs.uk](mailto:Marilyn.Harvey@esneft.nhs.uk)

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#### **Further information**

The Trust safeguarding policy can be found at [Safeguarding Adults at Risk of Abuse and Neglect - West Suffolk NHS Intranet \(wsh.nhs.uk\)](#).

More information can be found at [Suffolk Safeguarding Partnership \(suffolksp.org.uk\)](#).