



ASSOCIATION OF
CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS

directors of
adass
adult social services

Local
Government
Association

NHS CONFEDERATION

NHS Clinical
Commissioners
The independent collective voice
of clinical commissioning groups

Safeguarding adults - a joint statement

Collectively we represent the national member organisations of the core statutory bodies tasked with the implementation of new legislation that will put safeguarding adults on a statutory footing.

Together, we are committed to preventing and reducing the incidence of abuse and neglect of people in need of care and support. We are committed to improving the outcomes for people when abuse or neglect has occurred. We are committed to the government's principles for safeguarding.

We encourage the organisations we represent to ensure that local implementation is effective and will support our members to share learning as practice continues to develop.

Our key messages to guide and encourage our members are:

Outcomes for, and the experiences of, people needing safeguarding

Good outcomes for people are the key measure of success for staff and boards alike. We encourage the development of work with people that focuses on improving their safety and wellbeing and the realisation of the outcomes that they want.

Safeguarding is not about 'putting people through a process'. It is about supporting them to reach the resolution that is right for them and which also protects others, if perpetrators are in a position to harm other people.

We will refresh and revise our joint [Safeguarding Standards](#) to reflect this collective commitment (and the new forms that are in place in some of our organisations) so that there is a clear understanding of 'what good looks like'.

Governance

We encourage our member organisations to engage with their respective Boards, Councils, Committees or Commissioners to proactively consider safeguarding strategies and the annual reports of Safeguarding Adults Boards. These may also be considered by Overview and Scrutiny Committees in councils.

We encourage our member organisations to ensure that there are effective links between Safeguarding Adults Boards, Safeguarding Children Boards, Health and Wellbeing Boards, Community Safety Partnerships and Quality Surveillance Groups.

Leadership and commitment

We encourage our member organisations to ensure that safeguarding is owned by each of our member organisations.

We encourage them to demonstrate commitment by nominating to Safeguarding Boards staff of sufficient seniority to get things done. Safeguarding Adults Boards are where our members co-ordinate the work of each of their organisations and hold each other to account.

We encourage our members to be transparent with each other about successes and the areas where they struggle and want to improve.

Information sharing

We encourage our member organisations to support staff to share information intelligently in order to safeguard people's rights. This is not just about having the right protocols and systems; it is about good information sharing behaviour that supports staff to spot what is serious and to respond to it.

Contacts:

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Understanding risk, thresholds and interfaces:

Each local area has and will develop its own means of addressing the range of activities and services that interface with safeguarding.

We encourage our member organisations to ensure that the right bits of the system do the right things. To make safeguarding effective, we need health, care and other services and police responses in our communities that prevent harm occurring. We need communities that look out for each other and that know how to get help if needed. We need community safety activities that include older and disabled people.

We need competent specialists in each of our member organisations who can together both assess risk and fully understand the range of legal and welfare interventions they might use with people who have been abused or neglected and with those who have caused the harm.

Training and awareness raising:

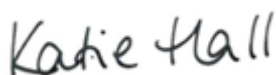
We encourage organisations that are our members to work together through Safeguarding Adults Boards to resource, commission and/or deliver training across their respective organisations that ensures that:

- a) all staff and contractors have a basic awareness and alertness to safeguarding issues, capacity, dignity and rights and know what to do if they come across concerns and
- b) specialists (for instance safeguarding social workers, named doctors and nurses, and key officers such as those in Public Protection Units) have sufficient knowledge, skills, and support to enable them to work with people in complex situations.

We think that there is particularly more to do to ensure that people understand and use the Mental Capacity, Mental Health and Human Rights Acts and their functions to safeguard people's rights.

Summary


We are committed to working together and with our colleagues to prevent and mitigate risk of harm and abuse and working together to improve outcomes for people who have been harmed or abused.



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Chair, Community Wellbeing Board
Local Government Association



Dr Amanda Doyle
NHS Clinical Commissioners' Leadership Group
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ACC Ian Pilling
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