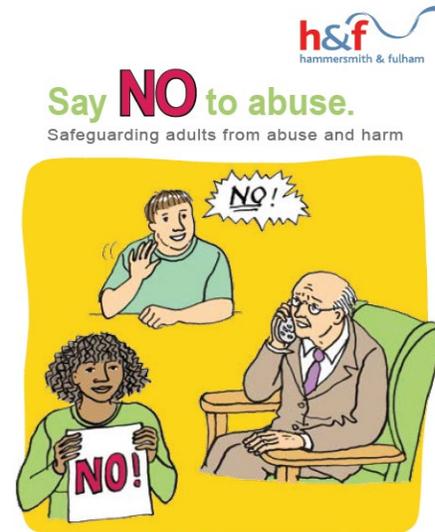


# Understanding Safeguarding



**Keeping safe from  
abuse and neglect**  
What happens after you report abuse

# What is Safeguarding?

- Adult Safeguarding means **protecting people's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect**. Everyone is entitled to live their life in safety without being mistreated, hurt or exploited by others.
- **Anyone can be at risk of harm**, but some people's situations may make them less able to protect themselves from harm or mistreatment. This may happen as people get older, or because they have a mental health issue, learning disability, sensory impairment or illness for example.
- Mistreating someone in this way is known as **'abuse'** and if someone fails to properly look after another person in their care, this is known as **'neglect'**. Someone can also self-neglect, where they neglect to care for their own needs (including hoarding).
- Types of abuse include:

Domestic Psychological  
Organisational Financial  
Physical Modern Slavery  
Discriminatory Sexual

# What is Safeguarding (cont.)

- **People may have complex, or even conflicting views about their safety,** particularly is the abuser is important to them. They may want to balance their safety against the importance of that relationship. We work with people to find the balance between safety and wellbeing. We ask the person what they would like the outcome to be, and are led by that. This might be something as simple as an apology.
- Adults have a right to make decisions about their own lives including accepting risks. We make sure they have the capacity to understand the implications of these decisions, and if they do not, we work with family/friends or arrange an independent advocate.
- Lord Justice Munby – **“What is the importance of making someone safe if you simply make them miserable?”**
- Lots of agencies are involved in keeping people safe, including the Police, Fire Brigade, NHS, Housing Associations, the Council and the various community sector organisations .
- The Care Act 2014 states that **the local authority is the organisation with overall responsibility for safeguarding locally.**

# Who does safeguarding apply to?

- People's wellbeing is at the heart of the care and support system under the Care Act 2014, and the prevention of abuse and neglect is one of the elements identified as going to make up a person's wellbeing.
- In the context of the legislation, specific adult safeguarding duties apply to any adult who:
  - has care and support needs
  - is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect
  - is unable to protect themselves because of their care and support needs.
- **And the person consents to a concern being raised/looked into**

# The 6 principles of safeguarding

- Empowerment
- Prevention
- Proportionality
- Protection
- Partnerships
- Accountability

## The Care Act 2014

The Care Act and Guidance state that safeguarding:

- Is person led
- Engages the person from the start, throughout and at the end to address their needs
- Is outcome focused
- Is based upon a community approach from all partners and providers

The SAB is to ensure that the policies and procedures governing adult safeguarding are fit for purpose and can be translated into effective adult safeguarding practice.

## The London Safeguarding Policy and Procedures

- The policy that guides the practice of safeguarding and the legal framework

## Consent and Capacity and sharing information

- These are areas that need to be taken into account when considering a response under safeguarding
- Presumption of capacity
- Consent required from the person 'being safeguarded' – referred to LA
- **Vital interest** - a term used in the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) to permit sharing of information where it is critical to prevent serious harm or distress, or in life-threatening situations

# Who and how to contact if you have a concern

Telephone : H&F Advice 0208 753 4198

[SafeguardingAdults@lbhf.gov.uk](mailto:SafeguardingAdults@lbhf.gov.uk)