

Safeguarding refers to measures to protect a person's health, wellbeing and right to live in safety, free from harm, abuse and neglect

Safeguarding is important in adult social care. It protects people from abuse by highlighting and investigating concerns raised. Safeguarding applies to adults when the following three criteria are met:

1. Has needs for care and support (whether or not the Local Authority is meeting those needs)
2. Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
3. As a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it

Types of Abuse and Indicators

Safeguarding legislation in England and Wales lists categories of abuse differently however, they all include some or all of the following categories:

1. Physical abuse

Hitting, biting, physical punishments, unlawful restraint, misuse of medication.

2. Domestic abuse

Psychological, physical, sexual, financial or emotional abuse carried out in a domestic relationship

3. Sexual abuse

Rape, sexual assault, inappropriate touch, any sexual activity the adult has not, or cannot consent to.

4. Psychological or emotional abuse

Emotional abuse, threats of harm, humiliation, intimidation, controlling and coercive behaviour.

5. Financial or material abuse

Theft, fraud, scams, financial coercion, withholding access to money, employees taking a loan from a person using any service, misuse of power of attorney/deputy/appointeeship.

6. Modern slavery

Human trafficking, forced labour, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, debt bondage.

7. Discriminatory abuse

Unequal treatment, hate crimes or harassment based on a protected characteristic of the equality act and hate crimes.

8. Organisational or institutional abuse

Neglect and poor practice because of the structure of support.

9. Neglect or acts of omission

Failure to provide or allow access to medical attention, food shelter, clothing, heating, stimulation and activity. Refusal of access to visitors.

10. Self-neglect

Lack of self-care, personal hygiene, health or surroundings, to the extent that it threatens personal safety.

Mate Crime, Forced Marriage, Cyberbullying and Radicalisation are also types of harm and abuse that require a safeguarding referral.

You don't need to know which category the abuse would fall into, if you are concerned still report it.

Reporting a Safeguarding Concern

First assess the immediate danger to the person, if you think a crime has been committed contact the police.

If the person is in immediate danger, take steps to protect the person, either with their agreement, or if they lack capacity, in their best interests.

Anyone can raise a safeguarding concern. This could be professionals in someone's life, their friends, family, loved ones, or someone who simply observes a concern.

If you are not a Dimensions employee:

- Contact the provider (support or health care provider) and ask to speak to a manager or safeguarding lead.

And/or

- Contact the Local Authority Safeguarding Team

You can find your Local Authority using this website:

England: <https://www.nhs.uk/service-search/other-health-services/local-authority-adult-social-care>

Wales: <https://www.gov.wales/find-your-local-authority>

If you work for Dimensions see the Safeguarding Policy and your Safeguarding Contacts and Protocols Grab Sheet for details of who to contact.

For concerns that relate to Dimensions, anyone can contact our confidential whistleblowing service: Safecall on:

0800 915 1571

www.safecall.co.uk/reports
dimensions@safecall.co.uk

What Happens When You Raise a Safeguarding?

What happens when a safeguarding is raised can differ depending on the nature of the concern and its severity.

Safeguarding action may be taken to protect the individual, this is called an enquiry. An enquiry establishes the facts and agrees further action that is needed.

Focusing on the desired outcomes of the person at risk, a plan to protect them will be put in place. This will be done alongside them, and with support from their relatives when consent is given. This is called 'Making Safeguarding Personal'.

If the person lacks capacity, best interest decisions may be made on the person's behalf.

The safeguarding is closed when the local authority are satisfied the threat of abuse is no longer present.