

Pioneering Care Partnership Safeguarding Adults Policy



Aim

This Policy aims to clearly outline PCP's position on safeguarding adults by protecting their right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect and ensuring that PCP works in partnership with other organisations to achieve this. PCP also recognises that safeguarding from risk does not just apply to children or vulnerable adults.

PCP accepts that it must take reasonable steps to protect those from harm, including:

- People who benefit from PCP's work (including children and vulnerable adults)
- Staff
- Volunteers; and
- Other people connected to PCP's activities.

Purpose

The purpose of this Policy is to outline the following six key principles and definitions that underpin safeguarding work and ensuring that all staff and volunteers adhere to their responsibilities:

1. **Empowerment** – people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
2. **Prevention** – it is better to take action before harm occurs.
3. **Proportionality** – the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
4. **Protection** – support and representation for those in greatest need.
5. **Partnership** – Local solutions through services working with their communities, who have a part to play in preventing, detecting, and reporting neglect and abuse.
6. **Accountability** – and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

Making Safeguarding Personal

In addition to these principles, Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) aims to ensure that the safeguarding process:

- Is person-led and outcome-focussed.
- Enhances the individual's involvement, choice, and control; and
- Seeks to improve the quality of life, wellbeing, and safety of the individual.

Scope

All safeguarding concerns will be responded to in the most appropriate and proportionate way. The Care Act (2014) has defined safeguarding in broad terms covering prevention and protection. There is a new legal duty for a Local Authority, to ensure that safeguarding enquiries take place to establish the level and circumstances of the risk. Eligibility for social care needs is not a barrier to these enquiries. In every case where the possibility of the abuse or neglect cannot be ruled out PCP will refer to the relevant Local Authority Safeguarding Board following their framework.

Safeguarding enquiries must be made for any adult who:

- Has needs for care and support (whether the LA 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.

Policy Statement

This Policy confirms PCP's commitment to:

- Stop abuse or neglect whenever possible.
- Prevent harm and reduce risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs.
- Safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live.
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned.
- Raise public awareness so that communities and professionals play their part in preventing and identifying and responding to abuse and neglect.
- Provide information and support in accessible ways, to help people understand the different types of abuse and neglect; and
- Support the strategic development of adult safeguarding when faced with a particularly challenging safeguarding issue.
- PCP will take a risk-based approach to the Prevent duty adopted by the local authorities in which we work. Prevent is about stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorist activities.

Responsibilities

Chief Executive has overall accountability and responsibility of Safeguarding across PCP and ensuring that any concerns raised through this policy are followed using the appropriate Safeguarding Procedure. The Chief Executive is also responsible for raising any significant Safeguarding concerns with Trustees.

Senior Managers are responsible for ensuring that the Policy is reviewed, disseminated, and implemented, addressing any concerns raised through this Policy.

Human Resources are responsible for ensuring that all staff and volunteers receive as a minimum, awareness training, whilst those that work more closely with adults with special needs will receive more in-depth training which will be subsequently refreshed after three years.

Line Managers are responsible for applying the policy and procedures, including sharing the policy with staff, ensuring understanding and compliance. Line Managers are also responsible for ensuring staff and volunteers attend training and report any incidents.

Employees & Volunteers are responsible for upholding best practice standards, reading, and operating within PCP policies and procedures, adhering to PCP core values, and raising concerns with their line manager.

Exclusions

Local Authority Adult safeguarding duties apply in whatever setting people live, except for prisons and approved premises such as bail hostels, where inmates are the responsibility of the specific institution.

Whilst this policy relates to adults with care and support needs where there is a child living in the household where self-neglect concerns exist, reference must be made to Local Safeguarding Children Partnership procedures.

This Policy does not form part of PCP's contract of employment or employee Terms and Conditions.

Definitions

This definition of adults at risk of abuse or neglect includes:

- Those who are at a greater risk of suffering abuse or neglect because of physical, mental, sensory, learning, or cognitive illnesses or disabilities; and substance misuse or brain injury

- Those who purchase their care through personal budgets, those whose care is funded by local authorities and/or health services and those who fund their own care
- Informal carers, family and friends who provide care on an unpaid basis.

Safeguarding Board

The Care Act requires every Local Authority to establish a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) for its area. It oversees and leads on all adult safeguarding across the entire locality area. The areas covered in this policy are Darlington, Durham, Sunderland, and Teesside.

Communication

PCP will ensure that:

- All employees and volunteers are aware of the policy at induction
- Generic training will include examples and reference to this policy
- This policy is easily accessible by all members of the organisation, including being available on Enyware (PCP's intranet)
- Employees are informed when a particular activity aligns with this policy
- Employees are empowered to actively contribute and provide feedback; and
- Employees are notified of all changes to this policy in a timely manner.

Related Policies and Procedures

This Policy should be read in conjunction with the following related policies, procedures, or guidance:

- Safeguarding Adults Procedure (& Children's)
- Data Protection Policy
- Data Subject Access Procedure
- Information Sharing Policy
- Personal Identifiable Information Loss-Breach Procedure
- PCP Core Values Statement
- Risk Assessment Procedure
- Lone Working Procedure
- Incident Reporting Procedure
- Disciplinary Policy and Procedures
- Equality & Diversity Policy and Procedures
- Whistleblowing Policy & Procedures

Relevant Legislation

This Policy is in line with the following relevant legislation:

- Department of Health, Care Act 2014
- The Human Rights Act 1998
- Mental Health Act 1983
- The Equality Act 2010

Monitoring and review

This Policy will be reviewed by HR annually to ensure that it remains compliant. A full formal review will also take place every 3 years by Senior Management Team as part of the Policy Review Cycle.

Policy Document Tracking

Action	Date(s)
Draft to SMT:	1 July 2021

Draft to Board:	N/A
Ratified by Board:	N/A
Approved Policy circulated to SMT:	1 July 2021
Approved Policy uploaded to shared:	1 July 2021
Approved Policy circulated to staff:	30 July 2021
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