

“Safeguarding Adults - Policing to Keep People Safe”

Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility

What Can you do?

The Police Strategy 2018-2025, set by the Commissioner, lays out our policing priorities, which are:

- Preventing high-harm offences
- Protection for those at greatest risk and pursuing the most dangerous offenders
- Reducing the public's fear of crime

Adopting a safeguarding approach will help meet these priorities - **use your police powers to keep people safe.**

- Visualise a ‘safeguarding thread’ through all of the work you do.
- Use the correct flags on CRIS – it gets people the support they need.
- Ensure that the A-E vulnerability assessment framework (VAF) is detailed on each Merlin you complete, think widely about risk.
 - The best outcome is that your work means that help is provided and police don’t have to return to the same person in the same situation
 - Detailed reports help to ensure that the most informed decisions are reached by both police colleagues and partner agencies who will base their safeguarding decisions on what you record.

The Care Act 2014 makes Adult Safeguarding a legal responsibility for police

Adult safeguarding is aimed at people with **care and support needs** who may be in circumstances that make them vulnerable and at risk of **abuse or neglect**. In these cases, local services must work together to spot those at risk and take steps to protect them.

The Act stipulates that the Local Authority, NHS, local Police and other partners should form a Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and work together to discuss and act on local safeguarding issues.

What is Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP)?

It means adult safeguarding:

- Is person led
- Is outcome focused
- Engages the person and enhances involvement, choice and control
- Improves quality of life, wellbeing and safety

Police policies and ways of working support this through:

- Achieving Best Evidence interviews (ABE)
- Use of advocates, including Appropriate Adults and Independent Domestic Violence Advocates (IDVAs)
- The Victims Code of Practice
- Restorative Justice
- Multi Agency Safeguarding Hubs (MASH)
- Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference in relation to domestic abuse (MARAC). The need for the victim's views and wishes to be heard.

Can you think of other ways you support MSP in your role?

Further Reading [here](#)

To ensure knowledge is shared, will you volunteer as your team ‘Safeguarding Officer’

Working in Partnership

Partner agencies often have the same goals, including to prevent harm and keep people safe. They will have different perspectives and ways of working.

Working together, using each agency's strengths will help you achieve the goals. SW BCU, along with other partner agencies, has signed up to a Common Safeguarding Objective. This will be assigned to you in your PDR, and your contribution to keeping people at risk safe will be assessed. The objective is simple; to recognise vulnerable people at risk, take action to keep them safe, and fully record and report the circumstances. You have an individual responsibility to act. Staff from some other partner agencies will have the same objective.

Types of Abuse & Neglect:

- Physical abuse
- Domestic violence or abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Modern slavery
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational or institutional abuse
 - Neglect or acts of omission
 - Self-Neglect

How many of these types of abuse are the same as, or similar to priorities set by the police?

Safeguarding - Criminal Offences

In addition to the more common criminal offences, officers should consider:

- Section 44 Mental Capacity Act 2005 wilful neglect or ill-treatment of a person lacking mental capacity;
- Section 127 Mental Health Act 1983 ill-treatment of a patient with mental disorder;
- Section 20 & 21 of Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015 ill treatment or wilful neglect by care workers or care providers;
- Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 – gross breach of duty of care causing a person’s death;
- Regulations 214(2) and 255(1)(b) of The Human Medicines Regulations 2012 – unlawfully administering medication;
- Section 4 Fraud Act 2006 abuse of position

