



The Care Act 2014 places a legal requirement on all agencies to ensure that all adults (aged 18 & over) can live without the risk of, or actual, harm or abuse.

Adults with care & support needs, e.g. visual or hearing impairment, physical or learning disability, physical or mental ill health, may be less able to protect themselves and struggle to tell anyone.

Education settings sometimes have concerns about adults in a pupil's family or adult pupil themselves.

The duty to safeguard applies to an adult who:

- Has needs for care and support, and
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
- As a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect

Examples of adult harm are:

- **Physical** e.g. hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, mishandling of medication, restraint, sanctions
- **Sexual** e.g. rape, sexual assault, forcing adults into sexual acts they don't want/can't consent to
- **Psychological** e.g. threats, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber-bullying, isolation
- **Financial or material** e.g. theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion with financial affairs, misuse of property, possessions or benefits
- **Neglect & acts of omission** e.g. ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, no access to health, social care or educational services, inadequate heating, self-neglect
- **Domestic violence:** psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse, 'honour' based violence, forced marriage
- **Discrimination & hate crime** e.g. harassment, bullying, violence due to gender, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion
- **Modern slavery:** trafficking & being forced into abuse, servitude, inhumane treatment
- **'Mate' crime:** befriending someone to control money, steal food, hurt or intimidate them
- **Hate Incidents:** actions that are not crimes, but cause upset and harm
- **Organisational abuse:** poor care, neglect, staff behaviour; restricted contact, lack of choice about when to eat, get up, go to bed etc.
- **Exploitation by radicalisers:** persuaded or bullied into terrorist actions

Procedure for responding to concerns:

If you are concerned that an adult:

- Is in need of services
- Has had their capacity to provide adequate care to a child affected by their vulnerability
- May be suffering abuse or exploitation

The staff member, student or volunteer should:

- Ensure the safety of everyone involved
- Obtain the necessary information to make an informed referral
- Discuss immediately with your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or Deputy (DSD)
- Document the incident & actions in writing and keep in the related child's safeguarding file

Do not:

- Make promises or agree to secrecy
- Investigate yourself
- Ask leading questions

Your DSL/DSD should seek advice from:

**Adult Safeguarding tel. 2736870, or
Safeguarding Children Advice Service
Mon-Fri, 9-4.30 pm, tel. 2053535**

If appropriate, pass on the concerns to one of the referrer agencies:

**Adult Access Team (2734908)
South Yorkshire Police (101)**

In an emergency ring 999

This 'Safeguarding Adults – Guide for the Public' leaflet includes a concern form for reporting adult harm & abuse

Useful links:

- [Adult Safeguarding Partnership, Sheffield City Council](#)
- [Care Act 2014 – Safeguarding Adults](#)
- [Care and Support Statutory Guidance, DoH 2016](#)
- [Care Act Fact Sheets, DoH](#)