

# Adult Safeguarding

## Supporting people to be safe in West Sussex

West Sussex  
Safeguarding Adults  
Board  
Making Safeguarding Personal



## What is Safeguarding?

The Local Authority has a legal duty to make enquiries when an adult could be or is at risk of being abused or neglected. This protects your right to live safely, free from abuse and neglect, including aiming to prevent and stop abuse and harm where possible.

## What is Making Safeguarding Personal?

This is about making sure that you are fully involved in working out the best way of helping you keep safe. With you, the safeguarding process will:

- Consider your circumstances
- Listen to you and take you seriously
- Ask you what you want to happen
- Help you to make choices and reach your own decisions
- Help you find an advocate if needed
- Keep you informed and involved
- Tell you what will happen next

The process will involve talking to you regularly to see if anything has changed. There will also, be a check to ask if what you wanted has happened. The Local Authority call these 'safeguarding enquiry outcomes.'

## Who is safeguarding for?

Any adult who appears to have care and support needs and, cannot protect themselves because of their care and support needs and, is at risk of or is experiencing abuse or neglect.

## What is abuse and neglect?

- May be something that happens once or multiple times.
- Can be caused by anyone, someone you know, another adult with support needs, a professional or a stranger.
- Can happen anywhere, including your own home, a care home, health setting or in a public place.

## Types of abuse:

**Physical abuse** includes; hitting, kicking, burning, giving you the wrong medication or medication, you don't need.

**Sexual abuse** includes; unwanted sexual contact such as touching or kissing, taking, or sending sexual pictures.

**Financial abuse** includes; stealing money or possessions, not letting you have money or telling you what to spend it on.

**Neglect** includes; not getting the help, food, or healthcare you need.

**Self-neglect** includes; not looking after your own needs, or not wanting help offered to you.

**Psychological/Emotional abuse** includes; shouting, threats, cyber bullying.

**Discrimination** includes; threats, insults, harassment, or abuse based on disability, age, ethnicity, gender, religion, or sexuality.

**Domestic abuse** includes; any form of abuse from anyone that you live with, including ex-partners.

**Modern Slavery** includes; working without being paid or not being paid enough

**Organisational abuse** includes; poor care or poor practice in a care home or from a care organisation that are providing you care and support which leads to harm being experienced.

# What happens when a safeguarding concern is made?

When the Local Authority receive a concern about possible abuse or neglect, a member of staff will contact you to discuss the concerns in more detail.

To make a plan to help you, you will be asked:

- To share as much as possible about what may be worrying you.
- If there are specific things which you would like to happen.

If needed and you agree, there will be a Safeguarding Enquiry to look into what has happened and help make a plan to support you to be safe.

If you do not want an Enquiry, but other people may be at risk, the Local Authority may still need to look into this, but they will let you know what they do.

## Safeguarding concerns for young people

For young people aged between 17.5 years old and 18, who are/may be at risk of abuse or neglect, a safeguarding concern needs to be made to the Local Authority.

Once the concern has been considered, a manager will decide if the concern should be looked at by the Children's Safeguarding Team or the Adults Safeguarding Team. You can find out more about this in the West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board's, [Safeguarding Young People 17.5+ Protocol](#).



## Involvement and support

If you need support, the Local Authority will ask who you would like this to be from. It could be a family member or friend or advocate.

An advocate is someone who supports you to express your views and wishes.

In certain situations, when the Local Authority has particular concerns about your safety and risk, they may ask to speak with you on your own.

## Mental Capacity

Mental capacity means being able to make your own decisions. If the Local Authority thinks that you may lack capacity, they will carry out an assessment to check this.

If the assessment shows you lack capacity, the Local Authority will ask if there is anybody that you would like to speak to on your behalf.

If there is not anybody, the Local Authority will ask an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA) to meet with you, to listen to your views, feelings, beliefs and values and then tell the Local Authority what you want to happen.

## What you want to happen

It is important to understand what you want to happen. This could include:

- Stopping the abuse or neglect
- Avoiding the abuse
- Feeling safe
- Recovery or feeling better
- Having control
- Knowing how to ask for help
- Receiving an apology
- Knowing it won't happen to anyone else
- Have support from the police if a crime has been committed

## What happens at the end of a safeguarding enquiry?

A member of staff from the Local Authority will:

- Tell you when the enquiry ends.
- Check whether you have achieved what you wanted.
- Check that you understand what you can do if you have any concerns or difficulties.
- Discuss with you whether to review your safeguarding plan at a later date.
- Check that you now feel safe.
- Ask you or your representative to provide confidential feedback about the safeguarding process so that the Local Authority can understand and learn of the experiences of Adults they are helping.



## Report a safeguarding concern for an adult



The best way to report a concern is online:

[www.westsussex.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/social-care-support/adults/raise-a-concern-about-an-adult/](http://www.westsussex.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/social-care-support/adults/raise-a-concern-about-an-adult/)



If you are unable to raise a concern online, you can call adult social care on:

01243 642121

In an emergency dial 999

For more information on the work of the West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board:

Visit our website at: [www.westsussexsab.org.uk](http://www.westsussexsab.org.uk)

Follow us on Twitter: @WSussexSAB

Email: [safeguardingadultsboard@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:safeguardingadultsboard@westsussex.gov.uk)

Phone us: 0330 222 7952