

# ONE MINUTE GUIDE TO SAFEGUARDING FOR HOME VISITING COUNCIL WORKERS

This guidance is aimed at those that work in and out of families / people's homes  
(maintenance workers, pest control etc.).

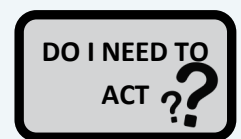
Due to the nature of your work, you are in a position to identify and report **any concerns** you have when visiting tenant's properties. Safeguarding means **protecting everyone from harm, abuse and neglect**. You have a **duty** to help protect children and/or adults at risk who may be experiencing and/or at risk of, abuse or neglect, regardless of their age.

**REMEMBER: SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY!**

**Discuss/report your concerns if you are worried about a child/young person/adult at risk, even if 'something just doesn't feel right.'**

**Your information could be a missing part of a bigger picture.**

**What is an 'Adult at Risk'?** An individual aged 18 and over who has needs for care and support and is experiencing, or at risk of abuse and/or neglect.



## Safeguarding and Types of Abuse

Signs of abuse are not always obvious, and a person may feel scared or unable to say what is happening to them.

**The types of abuse in adults and children includes, but is not limited to:**

- ⇒ **PHYSICAL**- Harm such as hitting, kicking, biting, misuse of medication
- ⇒ **EMOTIONAL**- Causing a person to feel unloved, worthless or inadequate
- ⇒ **SEXUAL**- Unwanted sexual activity, with perpetrators using force, making threats or taking advantage
- ⇒ **NEGLECT**- Failing to meet a person's basic needs such as food, clothing, adequate shelter
- ⇒ **SELF-NEGLECT**- Behaviours of an adult that threatens the person's health or safety
- ⇒ **MODERN SLAVERY**- Exploitation of other people for personal or commercial gain
- ⇒ **EXPLOITATION**- Imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a person sexually or criminally
- ⇒ **DISCRIMINATORY**- Misuse of power that denies opportunity to some groups or individuals
- ⇒ **FINANCIAL**- This is an aspect of coercive controlling behaviours: threats and degrading behaviour
- ⇒ **ORGANISATIONAL**- Mistreatment of people by poor, inadequate care and support. Systematic poor practice that affects the whole care setting (abusive culture within a care setting)
- ⇒ **RADICALISATION**- The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremism ideologies associated with terrorist groups.
- ⇒ **DOMESTIC ABUSE**- Incident/s of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members

Always **'THINK FAMILY'**- Remember that people rarely live in complete isolation and therefore we need to consider the needs or impacts on others such as the wider family, children or parents/carers.

## Signs To Look Out For:

- ◆ Anyone **disclosing anything concerning** to you (e.g. telling you that they/someone else being abused or concerned with their wellbeing) ✓
- ◆ Children and/or adults at risk, looking untidy or living in **poor living conditions** e.g. severe hoarding, unsafe environments, severe dampness, lack of food, presence of animal faeces, lack of heating or insufficient sleeping arrangements ✓
- ◆ **Drug/alcohol/substance misuse** - This could increase the risk to others living in the property who may be children and/or adults at risk
- ◆ Young children or adults at risk **being left alone for long periods** of time without appropriate care arrangements in place ✓
- ◆ Young children **not being appropriately supervised**
- ◆ People being **locked in their homes** without a key or means of leaving
- ◆ **Concerning / challenging behaviour**— such as aggression, shouting, anger or hostility
- ◆ **Bruises / injuries to non-mobile babies**
- ◆ **Unexplained bruises** and /or **injuries** to adults at risk
- ◆ Someone who seems **scared/fearful**
- ◆ Severe **mental health concerns**

## **WHO DO I NEED TO CONTACT?**

Following discussion with your manager/supervisor/co-ordinator, you need to report to Adult/Children's services as soon as possible.

## ✓ Do

**Follow your instincts** - even if you are not sure, don't ignore the signs and raise your concerns. **Share information and concerns with your Manager/ Coordinator / Supervisor**

**Contact Adult/Children's Services** (they will ask for information including your name, job title and a description of the concerns. You will receive support from your manager if you need to report a concern

**If you feel you can**, ensuring there is NO risk of serious danger and/or harm, **inform the person that you will be reporting the concerns** you have to children/adult services

## ⊘ Do not:

**Investigate any concerns yourself**

**Manage challenging situations** or other people's anxieties

**Break confidentiality or information sharing rules** (gov.uk/informationsharing)

## Download the NHS Safeguarding app

Provides 24-hour mobile access to safeguarding guidance and local contacts to report safeguarding concerns



### **IF YOU BELIEVE SOMEONE IS IN IMMEDIATE DANGER YOU SHOULD CALL THE POLICE ON 999**

	Hampshire	Isle of Wight	Portsmouth	Southampton
<b>CHILDREN</b>	0300 555 1384	0300 300 0117 (24/7)	02392 688 793	02380 833 336
<b>ADULTS</b>	0300 555 1386	01983 814 980	02392 680 810	02380 833 003
<b>OUT OF HOURS</b>	0300 555 1373	<u>Adults</u> 01983 821 105 <u>Children</u> 0300 300 0117	<u>Adults</u> 02392 822 251 <u>Children</u> 0300 555 1373	02380 233 344