

## **Safeguarding Adults**

### **What is it?**

- A framework of standards for good practice in Adult Protection work.
- Taken from recognised good practice from across the country.
- Compiled by a working group from the ADSS (Association of Directors of Social Services) led National Safeguarding Adults Network in consultation with Adult Protection Co-ordinators from each of the regional Adult Protection groups, Adult Protection Boards / Committees from across the Country, PAVA (Practitioner Alliance against Abuse of Vulnerable Adults), Age Concern, PGO (Public Guardians Office), CSCI (Commission for Social Care Inspection), ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers), DH (Department of Health), Ann Craft Trust, AEA (Action on Elder Abuse) and VOICE UK.
- Launched by the ADSS as an audit tool and guide aimed at promoting consistency and best practice.
- Contains 11 sets of good practice standards.
- Offers further guidance and recognises developments since "No Secrets" but does not replace "No Secrets".

### **How will it be monitored?**

Locally by the Adult Protection Board and Working Group, nationally by the National Safeguarding Adults Network.

### **Why is it called “Safeguarding Adults?”**

To recognise a shift in service philosophy and practice since the launch of “No Secrets” in 2000.

The term “Vulnerable Adults” can be disempowering and can also suggest that the cause of abuse is located with the victim rather than acts or omissions of others.

There can be confusion with the definition “Vulnerable Adult (No Secrets)”, “Vulnerable Adult” (Care Standards Act 2000), Vulnerable Witnesses (Achieving Best Evidence - Youth and Criminal Justice Act 2002).

Adult Protection can imply a paternalistic approach.

Safeguarding Adults reinforces that all adults have the right to live free from abuse and degrading treatment, but that some people may find it difficult to

afford that right. One such group of people are individuals who have community care needs.

Since the launch of “No Secrets” (2000) it has been demonstrated that this group of people are more likely to experience abuse and may have difficulty accessing mainstream and/or specialist services to keep them safe.

## **The Standards**

### **Standards 1-12 - Joint Planning and Capability**

#### **Standard 1**

Each Local Authority has established a multi-agency partnership to lead “Safeguarding Adults” work.

This set of standards outlines the multi-agency framework within which planning, implementation and monitoring of Safeguarding Adults work should take place, including a list of suggested partner agencies.

#### **Standard 2**

Accountability for and ownership of “Safeguarding Adults” work is recognised by each partner organisation executive body.

This set of standards outlines the commitment and engagement of each of the partner agencies.

### **Standards 3, 4 & 5 – Prevention of Abuse and Neglect**

#### **Standard 3**

The “Safeguarding Adults” policy includes a clear statement of every person’s right to live a life free from abuse and neglect and this message is actively promoted to the public by the local strategic partnership, the “Safeguarding Adult partnership, and its member organisations.

This set of standards looks at preventing abuse and neglect in the community.

#### **Standard 4**

Each partner agency has a clear well-publicised policy of zero tolerance of abuse within the organisation.

This set of standards looks at preventing abuse and neglect within service delivery.

## Standard 5

The “Safeguarding Adults” partnership oversees a multi-agency workforce development/training sub-group. The partnership has a workforce development/training strategy and ensures that it is appropriately resourced.

This set of standards looks at the “Safeguarding Adults” training strategy.

## **Standards 6, 7, 8 and 9 – Responding to Abuse and Neglect**

### Standard 6

All citizens can access information about how to gain safety from abuse and violence, including information about the local “Safeguarding Adults” procedures.

This set of standards looks at the duties of (public) agencies under the Human Rights Act (1998) to intervene proportionately to protect the rights of citizens to live free from violence and abuse.

### Standard 7

There is a local multi-agency “Safeguarding Adults” policy and procedure describing the framework for responding to all adults “who is or may be eligible for community care services” and who may be at risk of abuse or neglect.

This set of standards looks at the joint systems and procedures in place.

### Standard 8

Each partner agency has a set of internal guidelines, which are consistent with the local multi-agency “Safeguarding Adults” policy and procedures and which set out the responsibilities of all workers to operate within it.

This set of standards looks at the systems in place in each partner agency.

### Standard 9

The multi-agency “Safeguarding Adults” procedures detail the following stages: Alert, Referral, Decision, Safeguarding Assessment, Strategy, Safeguarding assessment, Safeguarding plan, Review, Recording and monitoring.

This set of standards detail each stage of the multi-agency procedures.

## **Standards 10 and 11 – Access and Involvement**

### **Standard 10**

The safeguarding procedures are accessible to all adults covered by the policy.

This set of standards looks at whether all there is equality of access to safeguarding services.

### **Standard 11**

The partnership explicitly includes service users as they are partners in all aspects of the work. This includes building service-user participation into its membership: monitoring, development and implementation of its works; training strategy; and planning and implementation of their individual safeguarding assessment and plans.

This set of standards looks at how people who use services are engaged in the systems and partnership.

As well as the Standards, the document also includes a number of good practice examples.

## **Where can I find the full version of Safeguarding Adults?**

<http://www.adss.org.uk/publications/guidance/safeguarding.pdf>

## **How will it Effect Local Practice?**

The content of the Multi Agency Policy and Procedures will stay the same for the time being but we will use the document to inform practice development and staff training.

We will be using the term "Safeguarding Adults" in future publicity material, training packs, documents etc.

An audit of the standards outlined in the Safeguarding Adults document has been carried out to ascertain where we are locally and to identify areas for future developments. The Annual Report for 2005 outlines some of the areas we will concentrate on in 2006 - these include developing better links with Community Safety and with other strategic and operational partnerships and areas of work and improving consultation with and involvement of people who are covered by the Multi Agency Policy and Procedures.