

Pocket Principles of Protection

The health professional's safeguarding pocket guide

Stop

Did you notice something not quite right?

Write down the time, date and details & what you've observed.

Assess

Use the right tools & guidance available to help you decide if you need to do anything further. View your local safeguarding board website for information.

Feel

Maintain professional curiosity. If something doesn't *feel* right, there's a chance it's not.

Explore

Have a conversation with a colleague or your manager, or other professionals that may have useful information.

Refer

Make a safeguarding referral. Record your actions. Follow up on your referral.

Signs, symptoms or red flags you might see:

Aggression

Overly sexualised behaviour

Unkempt appearance

Under 18 escorted by older 'boyfriend'/'girlfriend'

Inconsistency in their 'story'

Bruising

Withdrawn

You might think ...

It's probably nothing / I don't want to interfere / they're probably just having a bad day / I'm too busy to do anything about it anyway...

Don't assume everything is fine, it may need further investigation.

As a professional you have a responsibility to safeguard children & vulnerable adults from harm.

Allow the individual a voice.

Are you able to speak to the individual you're concerned about alone? What do they say? Can they express themselves?

Are you concerned about what their home life is like?

Your concern on its own may seem small, but shared with other key professionals may help build a picture to ensure the right support is in place.

Follow guidance in your organisation's **safeguarding policy**.

Contact the **named** or **designated professional** within your organisation.

Contact **children's social care** and/or **adult social services**.

Contact **police** if there is immediate **danger risk**.

Information Sharing

Make sure your **concerns** are **clear** and **understood**. Get the caller to read them back to you, ask them to be clear & explain what will happen next.

Record actions in your records within 24 hours.

Do I need the individual's consent to make a referral?

No. However, unless it places the person at increased risk you should always explain why you are concerned & that a referral is being made to further support the individual and/or their family.

Myth: I can't share information under the Data protection Act.

Truth: The data protection act allows us to share relevant personal information within a legal framework to protect vulnerable individuals.

Always think family

Consider, if you have a concern about an adult, are there children also involved?

Myth: It's not part of my role to get involved in safeguarding.

Truth: No practitioners should assume that someone else will pass on information which is central to safeguarding individuals welfare.

A-Z of Safeguarding

What are we safeguarding children & vulnerable adults from?

Domestic Abuse and or Violence

Controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members.

Emotional Abuse

Deliberately trying to scare or humiliate someone, or isolating or ignoring them.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Financial Abuse

Inc's theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

Human Trafficking/Modern Slavery

Recruiting, harboring, transporting, providing, or obtaining a person for compelled labour or commercial sex acts through the use of force, fraud, or coercion.

Neglect

Ongoing failure to meet a person's most basic needs. Inc's failure to protect someone from harm.

Physical Abuse

Deliberately hurting someone, inc's hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, suffocating, fabrication of illness or deliberately inducing illness.

Sexual Abuse

May involve physical contact, including assault by penetration, or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing & touching. Also inc's non-contact activities.

Sexual Exploitation

To coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual.

Self Neglect

Lack of self-care.

Radicalisation (PREVENT)

The process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist groups.

If in doubt seek advice