

Do you work with young people...

aged 18 and over?

If you have safeguarding concerns about a young person who is aged 18 or over, you should raise them under safeguarding adult procedures.

Safeguarding adult procedures changed under the Care Act in April 2015 to include more adults at risk, see below.

under 18?

If the young person is not yet 18, safeguarding concerns should be raised using your organisation's safeguarding children procedures.

aged 17 ½ to 18 years in Newcastle?

Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board (NSAB) and Newcastle Safeguarding Children Board (NSCB) have a joint Safeguarding Transitions Protocol to use when the young person is 17 ½ to 18 years and there is a concern that they will continue to be at risk of harm following their 18th birthday.

When it is used, it means that whoever made the referral to the Initial Response Service (children's social care) should then complete a referral form for Safeguarding Adults and send it to adult social care. The worker who works with the young person would also be expected to attend the hand-over safeguarding adults meeting, to be held at least a month before the young person turns 18.

The Care Act 2014 and Safeguarding Adults

The Care Act applies to adults aged 18 and over, including those who have children's services until they are 19 or 25 years old. The Care Act replaced the No Secrets guidance. Safeguarding Adults Boards and safeguarding adult enquiries became a statutory duty. 'Adult at risk' is the new terminology replacing 'vulnerable adult'.

New definition of adult abuse and neglect

The Care Act 2014 widened the definition of abuse and neglect. Categories of abuse from before:

- Physical
- Financial
- Sexual
- Neglect
- Emotional

Plus new categories of abuse:

- Self-neglect
- Modern Slavery
- Domestic Abuse
- Exploitation
- Discrimination
- Organisational (Institutional)

Adults at risk

Under the Care Act, safeguarding duties for local authorities apply to an adult aged 18 and over, who:

- has needs for care and support even if they do not have care services
- and is experiencing or is at risk of abuse and neglect
- and as a result of their care and support needs, is unable to protect

themselves from the risk or experience of the abuse or neglect.

For safeguarding enquiries to take place there does not need to be an 'alleged perpetrator' and there's no longer a 'significant harm' threshold.

What is a "Care and Support Need"?

"The adult's needs for care and support are due to a physical or mental impairment or illness...Local authorities must consider...if the adult has a condition as a result of either physical, mental, sensory, learning or cognitive disabilities or illnesses, substance misuse or brain injury...a formal diagnosis of the condition should not be required"
(Care Act statutory guidance)

Implications for organisations working with young people aged 18 to 25

The Care Act introduced a broader scope and definition of abuse and neglect. More young people aged 18 and over should be included in safeguarding adult enquiries, especially those at risk with care and support needs and are unable to protect themselves due to their substance misuse.

Previously many young people did not fall within the safeguarding adults' remit because they were not receiving local authority funded care and support services as they were not eligible.

Organisations will want to consider the new definitions of 'adult at risk' and of adult abuse and neglect, and to think about how they might affect their safeguarding adult referrals.

Voluntary sector actions:

1 Update / draw up your Safeguarding Adult Policy and Procedures

NSAB have a Safeguarding Adults policy and procedures template and guidance for voluntary organisations to use. For a copy visit

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/safeguarding-and-abuse/safeguarding-information-professionals/safeguarding-adults-practice-guidance#P> and see under 'P'

2 Consider your staff and volunteer training needs

Free safeguarding adults training for organisations active in Newcastle.

Visit www.newcastle.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/adult-social-care/safeguarding-adults-information-for-professionals/safeguarding-adults-learning-and-deve

Free or charged-for safeguarding adults training for organisations active in Gateshead. Visit

www.gateshead.gov.uk/lscb/Training/home.aspx

3 Working in Newcastle add Safeguarding Transitions Protocol to your safeguarding children procedures

<https://www.newcastle.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/safeguarding-and-abuse/safeguarding-information-professionals/safeguarding-adults-practice-guidance#T>

and see under 'T'

4 Keep yourself up to date

Newcastle CVS free newsletter includes safeguarding resources. Sign up on

www.cvsnewcastle.org.uk/ or www.cvsnewcastle.org.uk/gateshead