



Safeguarding Adults

Staff & volunteers sometimes have concerns about someone who is over 18 years who is involved with a pupil at their setting or who is a pupil themselves.

The duty to safeguard applies to an adult who:

- Has needs for care and support, and
- Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
- As a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect

Definitions of abuse of vulnerable adults:

- **Physical** e.g. hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate physical sanctions
- **Sexual** e.g. Rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, sexual photography, subjection to pornography, sexual assault, sexual acts not consented to or pressured into consenting to
- **Psychological** e.g. emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber-bullying, isolation including from services or support networks
- **Financial or material** e.g. theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in connection with wills, property, inheritance or other financial affairs, the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits
- **Neglect & acts of omission** e.g. ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, not providing access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, withholding medication, adequate nutrition, heating, self-neglect
- **Domestic violence:** psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse, 'honour' based violence including forced marriage
- **Discrimination & hate crime** e.g. harassment, slurs or similar treatment, violence based on gender or gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion
- **Modern slavery:** human trafficking including being coerced, deceived and forced into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment

Procedure for responding to concerns:

If a member of staff working has concern that an adult;

- Is in need of services
- Has had their capacity to provide adequate care to a child affected by their vulnerability
- May be suffering abuse or exploitation

The staff member, student or volunteer should:

- Ensure the safety of everyone involved
- Obtain the necessary information to make an informed referral
- Discuss immediately with your Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) or deputy (DSD)
- Document the incident and actions taken in writing and keep in the related child's safeguarding file

Do not:

- Make promises or agree to secrecy
- Investigate yourself
- Ask leading questions

Your DSL/DSD should seek advice from:

Adult Safeguarding tel. 2736870, or

**Sheffield Safeguarding Children
Advice Service**

Mon-Fri, 9-4.30 pm tel. 2053535

**If appropriate, pass on the concerns to one
of the referrer agencies:**

Adult Access Team (2734908)

South Yorkshire Police (101)

In an emergency ring 999

Useful links:

- [Safeguarding Adults Policies, Procedures & Guidance, Sheffield City Council](#)
- [Care Act 2014 – Safeguarding Adults](#)
- [Care and Support Statutory guidance, DoH 2016](#)