



# What is a Safeguarding Enquiry?

If you have any questions or queries about the safeguarding enquiry, and about the process, please do not hesitate to call us and speak to the allocated social worker on the number below:

Lancashire County Council Adult Social Care

On **0300 123 6720**

Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) 0300 123 6721.

In an emergency call **999**

## What is adult safeguarding?

Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live safely and free from abuse or neglect. It is also about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop abuse and neglect.

## What is a Safeguarding Enquiry?

Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 requires that each local authority must make enquiries (or cause others to do so) if it believes an adult is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.

This applies where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there)

- has **needs for care and support** (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- is experiencing, or **is at risk of, abuse or neglect**, and
- **as a result of those needs is unable to protect** himself or herself **against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it** (Care Act 2014, section 42)

## What are the types of abuse?

- Financial or material Abuse
- Physical Abuse
- Psychological or Emotional Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Discriminatory Abuse
- Organisational/Institutional Abuse
- Neglect and Acts of Omissions
- Domestic Abuse
- Self- Neglect
- Modern Slavery

## Making Safeguarding Personal

Lancashire County Council is committed to making safeguarding personal. This involves having conversations with you about how we might respond to safeguarding situations in a way that enhances your involvement, choice and control, as well as improving quality of life, wellbeing and safety.

## What is the process of a Safeguarding Enquiry?

When an allegation about abuse or neglect has been made, enquiries are led by a qualified social worker to find out what, if anything, has happened.

The enquiry will seek to establish whether any action needs to be taken to prevent or stop abuse or neglect, and if so, by whom.

To support the person involved they can ask for help from [Advocacy Services in Lancashire - Advocacy Focus](#) Telephone 0300 323 0965

The social worker will usually work with a range of different partners such as health professionals, police and care providers to gather information and where appropriate, work collaboratively to safeguard the individual and prevent a reoccurrence. The findings from the enquiry are used to decide whether abuse has taken place and whether the adult at risk needs a Safeguarding Plan.

A Safeguarding Plan is a list of arrangements developed with input from partners that are required to keep the person safe and to prevent a reoccurrence of the circumstances which led to harm.

### **What is the purpose of a Safeguarding Enquiry?**

The core purpose of a safeguarding enquiry is to decide what action is needed to help and protect the vulnerable adult at risk of abuse or neglect.

Its aims are to:

- establish the key facts about an incident(s)/allegation
- establish the adult's views, wishes and desires for the outcome of the enquiry
- assess the needs of the vulnerable and how these are supported to protect them
- protect the adult from the abuse and neglect
- establish if others are at risk of harm
- establish actions to be undertaken with regard to the person or organisation responsible for the abuse or neglect
- support the adult in feeling safe and achieving the outcomes of resolution

An enquiry can involve a range of activities appropriate to the circumstances presented. An enquiry can involve interviews with people as witnesses or involved in the incident. It will also involve a review of records, policies and procedures.

## **What happens after the Safeguarding Enquiry?**

At the end of the enquiry, the adult will be asked about their views on the outcomes and if they are satisfied with the actions undertaken to keep them safe and promote their wellbeing.

The referrer will also be provided with an update on the outcome. There may be instances where the referrer is not told the details of the outcome, we will ensure that privacy and confidentiality is respected, and the wishes of the adult are listened to.

## **What does Safeguarding aim to do?**

- Stop abuse or neglect wherever possible.
- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs.
- Address the cause of the abuse or neglect.
- Provide information and support in accessible ways to help people understand the different types of abuse, how to stay safe and what to do to raise a concern about the safety or well-being of an adult.
- Safeguard people in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live.
- Raise public awareness so that communities can work alongside professionals to prevent, identify and respond to abuse and neglect.

**More information can be found at our Website:** [What happens after you have raised a safeguarding concern - Lancashire County Council](#)

***Abuse is always wrong - No one should have to live with abuse. In Lancashire, we have zero tolerance to all forms of abuse. We always respond promptly when we are made aware of suspected abuse. By reporting abuse, you can help bring it to an end.***