

Welcome to Safeguarding Adults from Abuse

‘Safeguarding is everybody’s business’

- As staff and trustees we should all be **vigilant** on behalf of those unable to protect themselves
- This means being able to **recognise** different types of abuse and neglect
- It means taking responsibility for **prevention** by keeping people safe and encouraging people to think about risk when making choices
- Knowing who to tell and what **information** to give about suspected abuse and neglect

What is abuse?

- **Abuse** is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by **an act or a failure to act** on the part of a person or persons
- **Abuse can occur in any relationship** both formal and informal, and may result in exploitation of the person subjected to it
- **Abuse** may consist of **a single act or repeated acts**
- **Harm:** ill-treatment, impairment or avoidable deterioration of physical or mental health

Types of abuse

- **Neglect or acts of omission:** ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health or social care, medication or adequate nutrition
- **Physical:** hitting, pushing, burns, misuse of medication, inappropriate restraint
- **Financial:** theft , fraud, exploitation, pressure with wills, misappropriation of possessions, benefits or property
- **Psychological:** emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, blaming, coercive control, intimidation, abuse/excessive criticism, harassment, threat of withdrawal from services or supportive networks

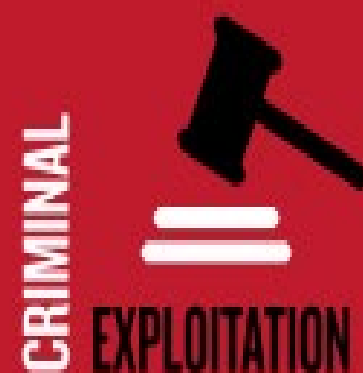
Types of abuse continued..

- **Sexual**
- **Organisational/institutional**
- **Discriminatory abuse**
- **Hate crime**
- **Mate crime**
- **Domestic violence/abuse**
- **Self neglect**
- **Radicalisation**
- **Female genital mutilation**
- **Sexual Exploitation (often associated with modern slavery)**

HELP FREE THE UK FROM **MODERN SLAVERY**

Modern Slavery is the illegal exploitation of people for personal or commercial gain. Victims are trapped in servitude, which they were deceived or coerced into, and cannot leave.

MODERN SLAVERY INCLUDES:



County lines and cuckooing

- **County lines** is a form of modern slavery where criminal networks exploit children and vulnerable adults to funnel drugs from cities to towns and rural areas. (21% involve **vulnerable adults** recruited into county lines).
- **Cuckooing** is where gangs set up dealing bases by taking over the homes of addicts and vulnerable people , including those with disabilities (17% of cases involve cuckooing)

Factors in an individual that may contribute to abuse occurring:

- Lonely
- Socially isolated
- Poor communication skills
- Dependant on carers
- Indiscriminate with affection
- Easily deceived
- A wish to please
- Non assertive, often compliant
- Negatively viewed by society
- Grew up where officials are believed

Risk factors in a person's own home

- History of drug or alcohol misuse on part of the carer
- Outside pressures
- Poor quality relationships past or present
- Dependency of either the adult at risk or the carer on the person cared for
- Mental or physical health issues of either the carer or cared for
- A carer's unwillingness or inability to care

In health and care setting abuse is more likely to occur where staff -

- Are employed through poor recruitment processes
- Are inadequately trained
- Are poorly supervised
- Have little support from management
- Are isolated from professional discussions and ideas
- Are poorly paid
- Work within rigid regimes
- Feel powerless to influence practice

Being alert to abuse means

- **Thinking** about what you see, is it acceptable?
- **Take seriously** what you are told
- **Responding to stresses** behind requests for help or other presenting problems
- **Being alert** to signals, non-verbal communication changes in behaviour or appearance

Care Act section 42 Safeguarding Threshold

‘The duties apply to adults aged 18 or over to which the local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area (whether or not ordinarily resident there)

- **Has need for care and support** (whether or not the authority is meeting any of these needs)
- **Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect** and
- As a result of these needs is **unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it’.**

Procedure to follow if abuse is suspected

- Stay calm, ensure safety, reassure
- Find out the wishes of the abused person
- Always seek consent where possible to make a referral, but do not make promises of confidentiality
- Explain what you are going to do
- Gather facts but **do not start investigating**
- Do not confront a possible abuser or disclose information inappropriately
- Tell your manager/chair and write report as soon as possible using the persons own words to describe the abuse
- Take care to preserve evidence(photographs of injuries are acceptable with the persons permission)

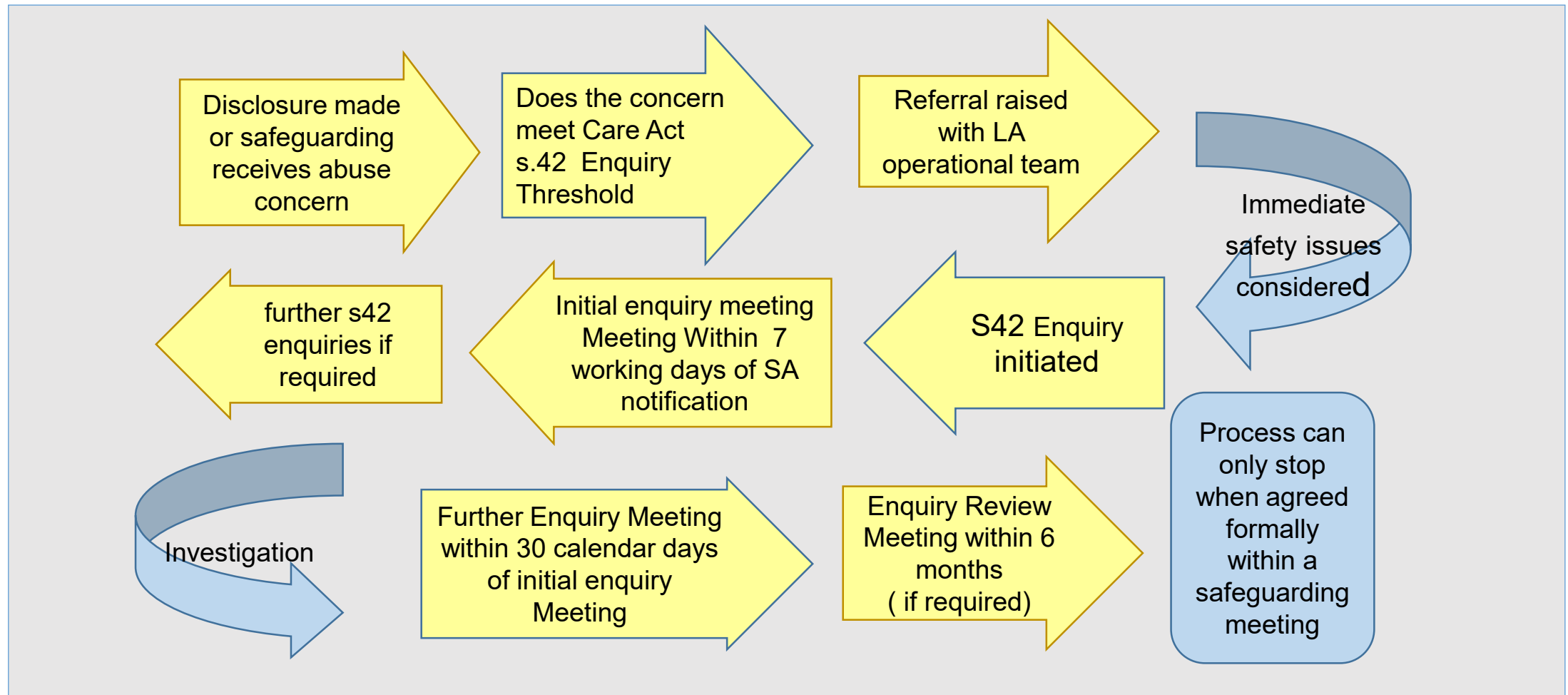
CONFIDENTIALITY AND CONSENT: when can information be shared without consent? (Data Protection Act 1998)

- If the person lacks the capacity to make a decision to report abuse
- Other people are at risk
- Consent cannot be sought in a timely manner
- A crime has been committed or to prevent or detect a crime
- The person may be under duress or being coerced
- The risk is unreasonably high
- Duty of care overrides an individual's right to refuse to consent
- The need to protect an individual or the wider community outweighs the right to confidentiality

Information that may be needed by the local authority

- Alleged victims name and address and date of birth
- The details of the concern or disclosure: circumstances, dates, times witnesses
- Type of abuse and the extent of the harm
- Key people, family , agencies, workers involved
- Detail of whether the alleged victim know of the referral and has given consent (and if not why not)
- What discussions have taken place
- What does the person want to happen
- Any others at risk
- Details of any immediate action taken e.g. police contacted

The Safeguarding Process



Some statistics

- In 2017/18 394,655 concerns were raised which led to 150,070 full Sect 42 enquiries
- Older people are more likely to be subject to Sect 42 enquiries
- Neglect and acts of omission most common 32% followed by physical abuse 22.2% , Financial 14.6%, psychological abuse 13.1%
- 43% of incidents took place in the persons own home 35.6% in care/nursing homes
- 63% were individuals know to the person 22% were service providers
- 30% lacked capacity

Finally...

Everyone has the right to.....

Live their lives free from fear

Be treated with dignity and respect

Have their choices respected

Not be forced to do anything against their will

Further reading:

- Care Act guidance chapter 14 'Safeguarding'
- Your local authority policy and procedure on Safeguarding
- Mental Capacity Act guidance
- Modern Slavery Act guidance