

**Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. It is vital that all agencies who work with vulnerable adults who may be at risk of abuse take responsibility for undertaking actions to prevent abuse.**

## Lancashire County Council Adult Safeguarding Protocol for Partners

The following agencies are represented on the Safeguarding Adults Board and are responsible for ensuring that all agencies and services in Lancashire deploy their **mutual** statutory responsibilities,

- Lancashire County Council
- Lancashire Fire & Rescue
- Lancashire Constabulary
- Lancashire Probation Service
- [East Lancashire](#) Clinical Commissioning Group
- [Fylde & Wyre](#) Clinical Commissioning Group
- [North Lancashire](#) Clinical Commissioning Group
- [Greater Preston](#) / [Chorley & South Ribble](#) / [West Lancashire](#) Clinical Commissioning Groups
- [Healthwatch Lancashire](#)
- Community Rehabilitation Company
- [Lancashire Care Association](#)
- [Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust](#) (Community)
- [Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust](#) (Acute)
- [Lancashire Constabulary](#)
- [Lancashire Fire & Rescue Service](#)
- Lancashire Safeguarding Adult Board
- Members of Advocacy & Carer Groups
- [Merseycare NHS Foundation Trust](#)
- [NHS England](#)
- [North West Ambulance Service](#)
- [Probation Services](#)
- [Representative of Housing Providers, Housing Support Providers](#)

### What is my responsibility as an Agency | Partner?

- To undertake appropriate and necessary actions to ensure safety of the individual and prevention of harm, including consideration of previous incidents.
- Ensure a review is undertaken and an action plan put into place for lessons learned and avoidance of repeated incident.
- Application of the Care Act and LSAB Guidance when faced with an Adult Safeguarding concern.
- Report to the Local Authority subject to meeting the criteria below.

For a Safeguarding concern relating to a vulnerable adult, you will be required to take into account a range of factors to determine next steps which include:

- Consideration as to whether consent has been given or not
- A decision regarding if the case reaches the criteria for a Statutory 42 enquiry

- Reliability/credibility of the information received
- Need for any emergency or other protective action
- Possibility that the alleged abuse is a criminal offence
- Impact of the alleged abuse on the adult(s)
- Capacity of the adult(s) for self determination
- Vulnerability of the adult(s)
- Extent of the abuse to this or other adults or children
- Length of time it has been occurring
- Risk of repeated or escalating acts involving this or other adults or children
- Information about the alleged perpetrator(s)

### What is the Local Authority's role?

The local authority retains the responsibility where the alleged abuse or neglect has taken place in Lancashire to,<sup>1</sup>

- Oversee a safeguarding enquiry
- Ensure that any investigation satisfies it's duty under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014
- Ensure that appropriate actions to ensure protection of the adult have been undertaken.

On reporting of this concern to the Local Authority (LCC), there may be a number of possible responses when adult abuse is discussed with the Local Authority at any stage in the process from initial consultation to raising a statutory Section42 response, it may be determined that,

- a) It is not adult abuse or it is discounted following evaluation/assessment or Information received
- b) There is evidence of abuse and it appears more appropriate to address the problem in a less formal way e.g. through the provision of support services for a stressed carer
- c) It is not adult abuse but a care management assessment is instigated
- d) It is abuse but the victim is not in need of care and support and a referral to a more appropriate service may be suggested e.g. housing services
- e) It appears to be abuse, the alleged victim is an adult at risk and a statutory Section42 enquiry is raised
- f) Where the alleged victim does not appear to have care **and** support needs but the safeguarding issues need to be addressed, a non-statutory enquiry must be considered.
- g) The concerns relate to general poor standards of care in a regulated setting and referral to CQC (regulatory authority) is more appropriate. The information may also be passed to the Local Authority Contracts Team and Commissioners of the service.

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<sup>1</sup> The Act places a requirement(Section42) on a Local Authority, to make or cause safeguarding enquiries, if there is concern that an adult with care and support needs(met or unmet)is experiencing, or is at risk of abuse and or neglect.