

Introduction

Living a life that is free from harm and abuse is a fundamental right of every person. When abuse or neglect does occur, it needs to be dealt with swiftly, effectively and in ways that are proportionate to the concerns raised. In addition, the person must be at the centre of any safeguarding response and must stay as much in control of decision making as possible. The right of the individual to be heard throughout the process is a critical element in the drive to ensure more personalised care and support.

The Care Act 2014 creates a new legal framework for how Local Authorities and other parts of the system should work together to protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. Partners must agree how they will work together and the roles they will play, to keep adults at risk safe. This policy, guidance and toolkit outlines the local response to this requirement.

In Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, the main statutory agencies - Local Authorities, Police and NHS organisations – are committed to working together to both promote safer communities in order to prevent harm and abuse and to deal with suspected or actual cases effectively. It is our belief that people at risk are best protected when procedures between statutory agencies are consistent across the whole of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

All staff, whatever the setting they work in have a key role in preventing harm or abuse occurring and for taking action when concerns arise. The policy and processes set out here are designed to explain simply and clearly how agencies and individuals should work together to protect people at risk. The target audience for this document is therefore, professionals and front-line workers (including unqualified staff and volunteers).