

Principles underpinning the safeguarding process

The safeguarding process outlined in this document is underpinned by a number of important principles which should inform the day to day safeguarding practice of partner organisations and their practitioners. Safeguarding responses must be:

OUTCOME FOCUSED rather than procedurally driven, so that the service user's wishes and outcomes are sought and discussed at the beginning, middle and end of the process.

INCLUSIVE of the service user with Making Safeguarding Personal and user participation built into each stage.

PROPORTIONATE with concerns dealt with at the lowest level possible by the most appropriate organisation appropriate to the level of risk and wishes of the service user.

TIMELY and operate to timescales in order to prevent drift and to provide accountability. There is recognition that the suggested timescales may be shorter or longer depending on a range of factors such as the level of risk or the need to respond to the needs and wishes of the adult.

STRUCTURED with options for meetings at the beginning, middle and end of the process but undertaken flexibly to enable the meaningful participation of service users.

FLEXIBLE with 'Pause and Review' and 'Exit Points' at key stages throughout the process so that it can stop (where appropriate) before it reaches 'the end' so as to ensure proportionality.

EFFECTIVE in managing risk and engage the adult and relevant partners in the response.

FORMATIVE in which the safeguarding support plan starts to be developed within 24 hours and is subsequently reviewed and revised at each stage

Principle of 'No Delay'

Where there is risk of harm or abuse, swift action must be taken and an effective response made. If it appears that the person is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, a safeguarding enquiry must be carried out to determine with the person what action, if any, is necessary and by whom. This framework adopts the principle of 'NO DELAY' so that the safeguarding response is made in a timely fashion with due consideration to the level of presenting risk. In practice, this means that the pace of the process is determined by presenting circumstances and professional judgments about risk. Therefore, the timescales outlined in this are for guidance in recognition of the fact these may need to be shorter or longer depending on a range of factors such as risk level, complexity of the case or to work in a way that is consistent with the needs and wishes of the adult.