



4LSAB Multi-Agency Protocol for Pressure Ulcers and adult safeguarding

April 2020

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The DH protocol [here](#) aims to assist practitioners and managers across health and care organisations to provide caring, speedy and appropriate responses to individuals at risk of developing pressure ulcers. Where pressure ulcers do occur the DH protocol offers a clear process for the clinical management of the removal and reduction of harm to the individual, whilst considering if an adult safeguarding response under section 42 of the Care Act 2014 is necessary.

The DH protocol should be applied to pressure ulcers reported by anyone including care providers, clinicians, anyone undertaking safeguarding enquiries, unpaid carers, relatives and individuals themselves, as any tissue damage resulting from pressure should be considered. This protocol has been developed and agreed in the broader context of the implementation of the Care Act 2014 and the drive towards greater integration between the health and social care systems.

The aim of the DH protocol is to provide a local framework aligned to national guidance, identifying pressure ulcers as primarily an issue for clinical investigation rather than a safeguarding enquiry led by the local authority. Indicators to help decide when a pressure ulcer case may additionally need a safeguarding enquiry are included.

Whilst the operational responsibility for investigating pressure ulcers is largely health led, the local Safeguarding Adult Boards (SABs) have a strategic interest in the prevalence of pressure ulcers across the sectors as one indicator of quality of care. It is important that both the SABs and Quality Surveillance Groups (QSGs) have access to comprehensive data on a regular basis. Where a pressure ulcer is one of a number of safeguarding concerns in relation to an individual or setting then there should be a multi-agency approach coordinated by the local authority, with health taking the lead for the clinical investigation.

The safeguarding decision guide assessment considers six key questions incorporating a safeguarding decision guide score. This score should be used to help inform decision making regarding escalation of safeguarding concerns related to the pressure ulceration. It is not a tool to risk assess for the development of pressure damage. The threshold for raising a concern is 15 or above. However, this should not replace professional judgement.

Where the score is 15 or higher, or where professional judgement determines safeguarding concerns, a copy of the completed decision guide, should be submitted to:

Southampton	Email: mailto:adultsocialcareconnect@southampton.gov.uk Telephone: 023 8083 3003 or the police on 101.
Hampshire	Hampshire Adult Services on 0300 555 1386 (0300 555 1373 for Out of Hours) or the police on 101
Isle of Wight	01983 814980 or the police on 101. E: safeguardingconcerns@iow.gov.uk
Portsmouth	First point of contact for all social care calls, providing information and advice. Tel: 02392 680810 or the police on 101. Email: PortsmouthAdultMASH@secure.portsmouthcc.gov.uk Outside these hours and on Sundays and Bank Holidays, in emergency only, please contact our Emergency Duty Service on 0300 555 1373.