

**National Safeguarding adults Week
21 – 27 November 2022**

Safeguarding Concerns

Lets talk about safeguarding concerns

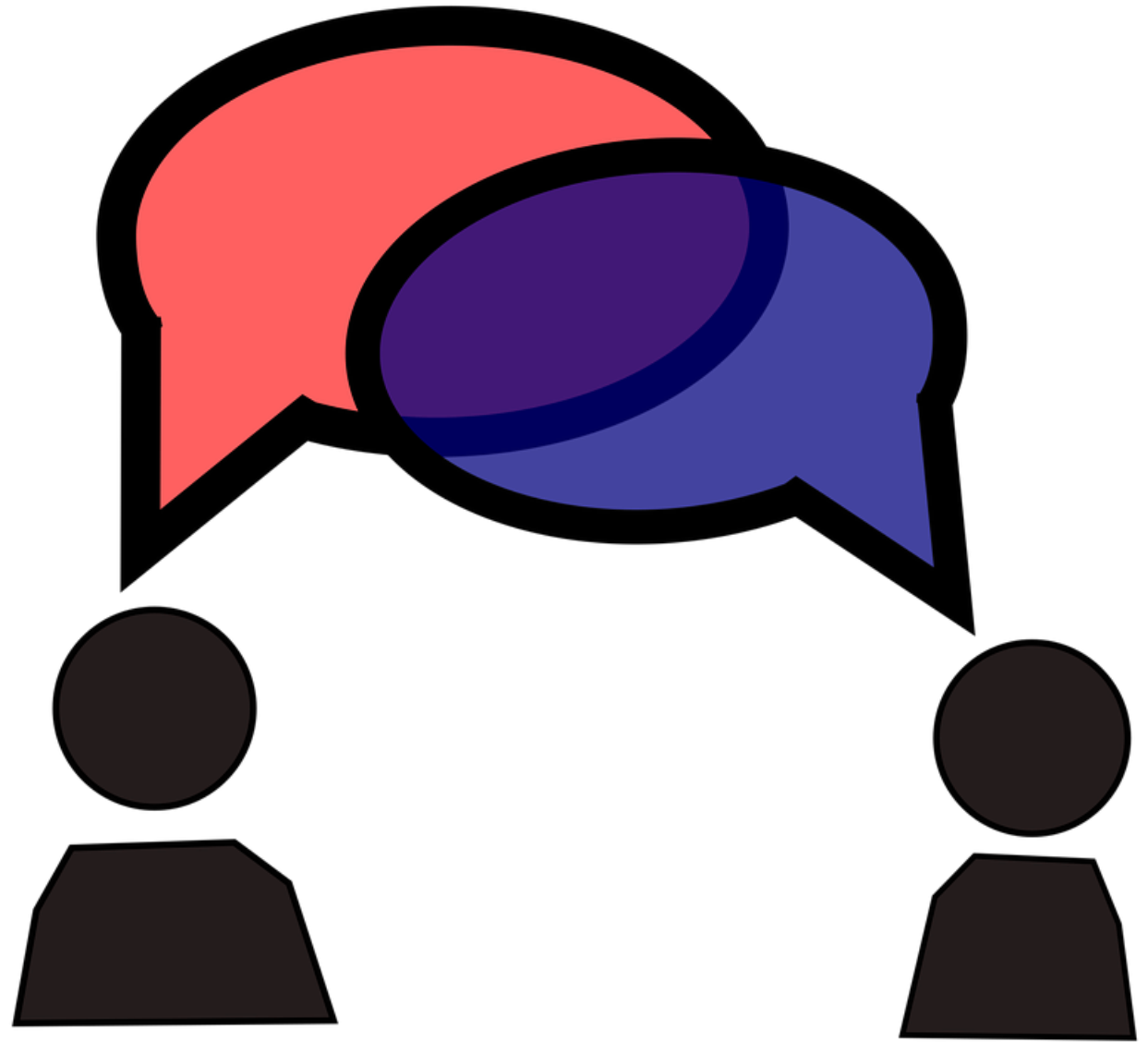
How do we understand and work with safeguarding concerns?

What helps decision making?

What are the benefits of raising a safeguarding concern?

What are the challenges?

What might happen next after a concern has been raised with the local authority?



Adult safeguarding responsibility is much broader than simply those situations that progress to a safeguarding enquiry.

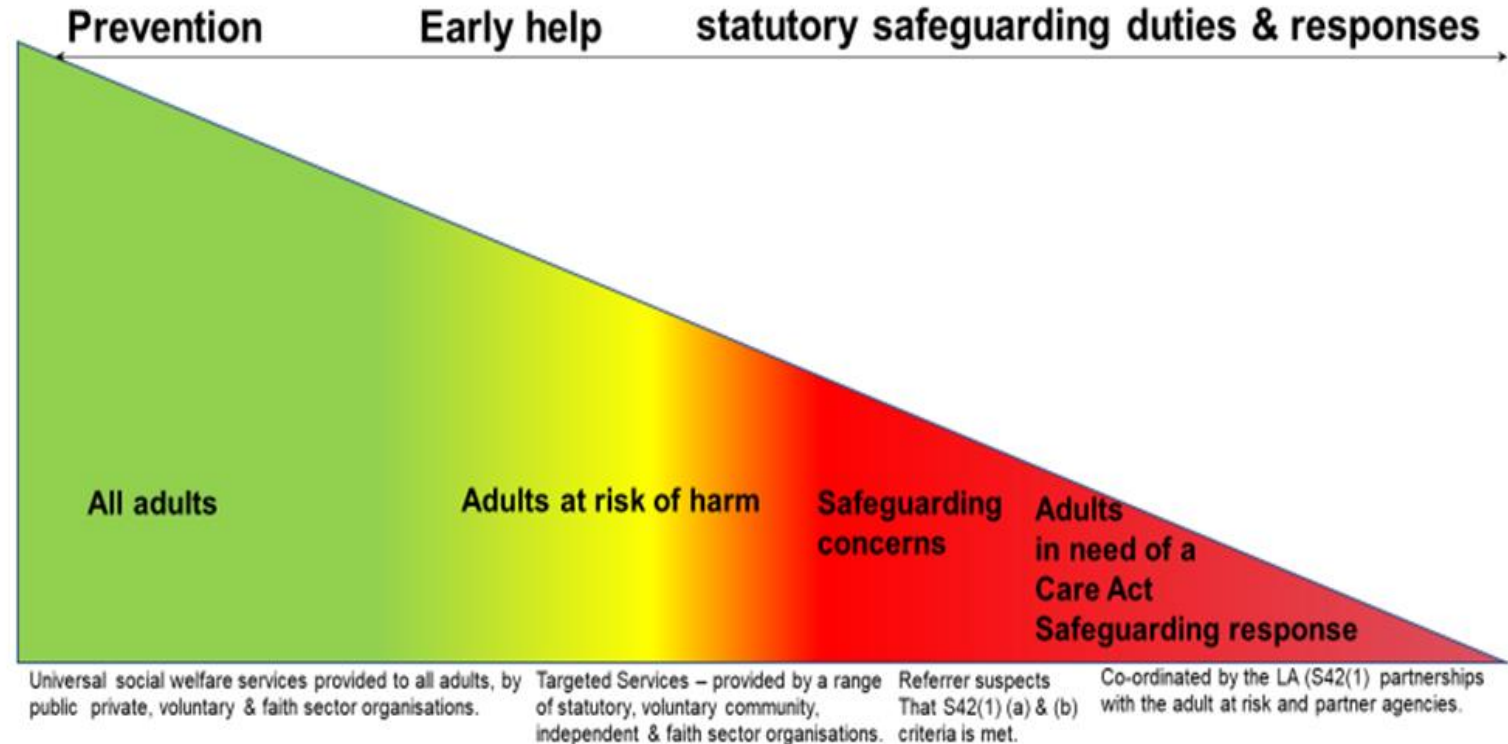
Need to address risks to wellbeing and safety, whether through safeguarding responses or through alternative support pathways.



Early raising of concerns with LA allows conversations to explore wider responsibilities.

Shared responsibility across organisations for addressing risks to wellbeing and safety, whether as a safeguarding concern, or through other alternative support pathways.

The Adult Safeguarding Continuum



National framework: enquiries LGA / ADASS

Making decisions
on the duty to carry
out Safeguarding
Adults enquiries

Suggested framework to
support practice, reporting
and recording



National framework: concerns LGA / ADASS

Understanding what
constitutes a safeguarding
concern and how
to support effective
outcomes

Suggested multi-agency
framework to support practice,
recording and reporting



[Links to the frameworks](#)

[Understanding what constitutes a safeguarding concern and how to support effective outcomes | Local Government Association](#)

[Making decisions on the duty to carry out Safeguarding Adults enquiries | Local Government Association](#)

What constitutes a safeguarding concern?

Local Government Association | Directors of adass adult social services

Understanding what constitutes a safeguarding concern and how to support effective outcomes

Suggested multi-agency framework to support practice, recording and reporting

LSAB Southampton Local Safeguarding Adults Board | HSAB | Isle of Wight Safeguarding Adults Board | PSAB

A multi-agency framework to support decision making in relation to adult safeguarding concerns.

For decision makers in agencies and organisations across Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth with adult safeguarding responsibilities.

Local Authority Services

Faith Groups | Housing Providers

Independent Health and Social Care Providers | Voluntary Sector

District, Borough, Town Councils | Police | Health Services

Fire and Rescue Services

Safeguarding is Everyone's business

HSAB | Isle of Wight | PSAB | SSAB

SAFEGUARDING ADULTS

4LSAB MULTI-AGENCY POLICY, PROCESS AND GUIDANCE

Covering the four Local Safeguarding Adults Boards of Southampton, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Portsmouth

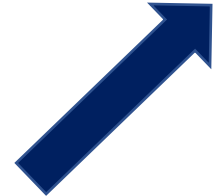
June 2020

a) Do I have reasonable cause to suspect the adult has needs for care and support?



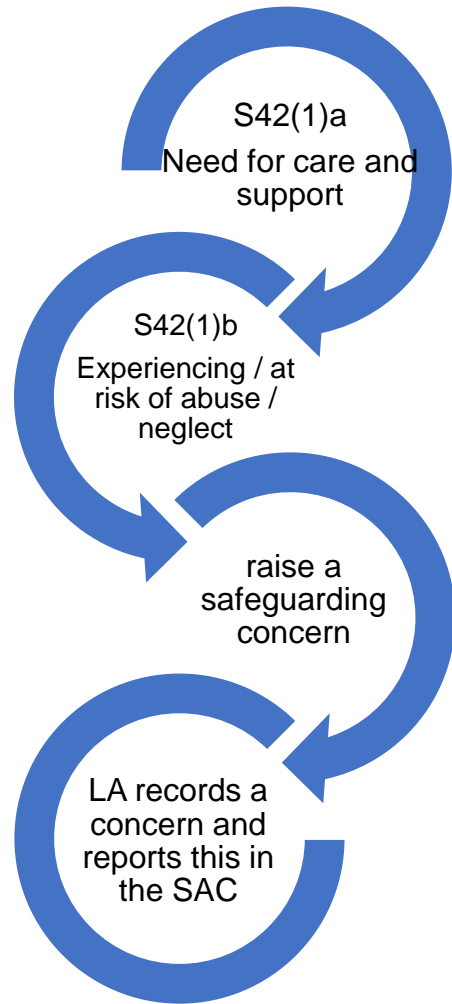
If yes to a) and b), the concern should be raised with the local authority

b) and that the adult is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect?



Includes links to specialist advice / decision-making protocols on falls and pressure ulcers.

Raising and reporting safeguarding adults concerns



- Need for care and support *whether or not the needs are being met*
- Discuss and agree next steps with the adult
- If uncertain discuss with others inside / outside your organisation (Safeguarding advice line?)
- If you have enough reasonable cause to suspect (b) but you are still unsure about (a), raise an adult safeguarding concern. The local authority information gathering under s42(1) will help make a decision
- If the LA agrees **at this stage** that the issue amounts to a concern using this framework then a concern is recorded locally and reported in the SAC (even if the decision later changes)
- If it doesn't ...
- If the issues do not amount to S42(1) a and b, what further support, advice, information or signposting can be offered to support the adult?
- If not a safeguarding concern, responsibility to find an effective pathway to identify and mitigate risks.

The significance of having conversations outside of your own setting

The frameworks encourage conversations to enable informed decisions about the range of pathways for addressing risk and / or support needs, rather than simply defaulting to always raising a safeguarding concern or missing situations involving risk that require a response of some kind.

Working in partnership

Shared decision making ...

Have I engaged sufficiently with the individual to know if what they are presenting is a safeguarding concern?

Can I decide just from my perspective, or do I need to make a joint decision, piecing together information from others and from the individual's perspective?

Am I aware of the range of potential risks? Steps that could be taken to mitigate those? Do I have relevant knowledge / skill? Do I need to talk to others?

Flexibility in practice

- Making the decision isn't a linear process always. You might change your mind on finding information that indicates the situation does / does not equate to abuse / neglect.
- Whilst the framework advocates a common approach, it advocates too, flexible responses to people's needs, reflecting the safeguarding principles, Making Safeguarding Personal and the wellbeing principle.
- Early raising of concerns with the local authority enables conversations to explore these wider responsibilities. The framework encourages a focus on the continuum of safeguarding activity towards supporting better outcomes for everyone.

Section 42 (1) and (2) of the Care Act (2014)

The Section 42 duty requires consideration of the following criteria under Section 42 (1) and (2) of the Care Act (2014):

S42 (1)

Whether there is “reasonable cause to suspect” that an adult:

- a) has needs for care and support
- b) is experiencing, or is at risk abuse or neglect, and
- c) as a result of their needs is unable to protect themselves

S42 (2)

- i. Making (or causing to be made) whatever enquiries are necessary
- ii. To enable LA to decide whether action is necessary. If so what / by whom

More about Section 42, Care Act, 2014

- There is a duty from the outset which starts with S42(1) information gathering as to whether S42(1) criteria are met and what action will follow.
- Only if the three criteria in S42(1) and 'reasonable cause to suspect' are fulfilled is the duty under S42(2) to make enquiries triggered. (LA decision)

Local and national frameworks suggest a shared approach

...

- Where the first two criteria are met a safeguarding concern will be raised with the LA (by any of us).

The local authority may later decide against further pursuing an issue as a safeguarding concern. However, at the stage of a concern being raised, because S42(1) (a and b) are met it will be recorded and reported as such.

You may get on the 'safeguarding bus' and then later down the line decide to get off to pursue an alternative pathway for addressing risks to wellbeing and safety. Or vice versa.



Demystifying safeguarding enquiries

- Investigation **X**



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- *Together* deciding on what action / by whom



Why are the frameworks and a shared understanding of enquiries and concerns important?

I feel more confident in my decision and in having conversations

More consistency and clarity

I can explain to the adult or their families, what a safeguarding concern is / how to report for themselves

This will mean that risks to wellbeing and safety will be addressed, whether as a safeguarding concern, or outside of safeguarding responses, by jointly agreeing alternative pathways for support

I have a basis on which I can challenge others where there is a difference of opinion

This provides a clear understanding for the local authority of what to report as a safeguarding concern / enquiry in the Safeguarding Adults Collection (SAC)