

**Quick Guide 3 - Flow Charts to support decisions on  
the need to raise a safeguarding concern**

**and**

**Understanding of subsequent decision making by  
the local authority**

## Deciding if you need to raise a safeguarding concern to the local authority/ Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Are you concerned that an adult is at risk of or is experiencing abuse or neglect?  
 What types of abuse or neglect are you concerned about?  
 Have you had a conversation with the adult about the concerns?  
 Have you sought the views and wishes of the adult?\*

Are there any immediate risks to the adult or to others including children?  
 Have you discussed and agreed next steps with the adult?\*

Have you provided advice, information or signposted the adult?

a) Does the adult have needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs) and b) Is the adult experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect? Section 42(1) (a) & (b) Care Act 2014

**YES**

**UNSURE**

**NO**

If you have reasonable cause to suspect that the adult meets the criteria (a) and (b) have you discussed with the adult about raising a safeguarding concern? Does the adult wish to raise their own concerns? Do they need support to do this?

Who else can you talk to within your organisation? Can you seek advice from others outside of your organisation or consider seeking advice from the local authority?  
 If the outcomes of these discussions give you reasonable cause to suspect s42(1) (a) & (b) – raise a safeguarding concern to the local authority/MASH.

If the concerns are not (a) and (b) what further support, advice, information or signposting can you offer the adult?

Does the adult want a safeguarding concern to be raised?

**YES**  
Raise a safeguarding concern.

**No**

HOWEVER raising a safeguarding concern may be justified e.g. where there is a vital risk to the person or others, where there is a public interest consideration or issue, or where a best interest decision needs to be made (where the adult lacks capacity to make the decision). Then proceed with raising a safeguarding concern. Record rationale for decision making.

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 responses, under s42(1) will help to make a decision.

**YES**  
Raise a safeguarding concern.

\*There may be circumstances where the safety of the adult or yourself prevent this from happening. If you still have concerns about abuse or neglect and it is not possible or within the scope of your role to have a conversation with the adult, then if in doubt continue with the process and raise a safeguarding concern.

## Safeguarding concern received by the Local Authority/ Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

