

The Care Act statutory guidance defines adult safeguarding as:

“Protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.”

Safeguarding Criteria

For a safeguarding response to be required under the Care Act 2014, the person has to meet the usual three criteria:

1. having care and support needs.
2. experiencing (or being at risk of) abuse or neglect.
3. being unable to protect themselves because of those needs.

10 Types of Abuse

1. Physical abuse
2. Domestic Violence or abuse
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Psychological or emotional abuse
5. Financial or marital abuse
6. Modern Slavery
7. Discriminatory abuse
8. Organisational or institutional abuse
9. Neglect or acts of omission
10. Self-neglect

(Care Act 2014)

Principles of Safeguarding

1. **Empowerment:** Ensuring people are confident and supported in making their own decisions and giving informed consent. Empowerment gives individuals choice and control over decisions that are made.
2. **Protection:** Providing support and representation for those greatest in need. Organisations can implement measures to prevent abuse from occurring and support those at risk.
3. **Prevention:** It is imperative to act before harm occurs, preventing neglect, harm or abuse. Organisations work to prevent abuse from happening by raising awareness, staff training and making information accessible. They also encourage individuals to ask for help if they feel at risk.
4. **Proportionality:** Explores what the least unintrusive response to a situation is in correlation to the risk. This aims to ensure the individual's life is impacted as little as possible by accurately assessing the risk.
5. **Partnership:** Forming partnerships with local communities can create solutions as they can assist in preventing and detecting abuse.
6. **Accountability:** Safeguarding is everybody's duty and people who are in contact with a vulnerable person should be responsible for noting any risks. Although carers and social workers have a responsibility to highlight any potential harm, it should also be noted that doctors, friends and relatives also have responsibility to flag any concerns.

(These principles were created by UK Govt to protect vulnerable and have been agreed within the Care Act 2014.)

Five Stage Approach of Safeguarding for BTGFIN

Stage 1 – Raising a Concern

Concern can be made by anyone and is the way of reporting abuse or neglect which is identified or received within company. Abuse or concern should be reported asap (preferably in same working day) to the directors and line managers of BTGFIN CIC.

Stage 2 – Reporting an alert & Enquiry

A safeguarding enquiry can encompass a range of required activities (for example) from conversations with people, to changes in care and support, to changes in systems or processes, to repairing or maintaining key relationships, to the accessing of social justice & recovery etc. An enquiry must be made by company and they should gather information about the raised concern internally and by consulting agencies if needed.

Stage 3 – Assessments & Discussions

The company will decide whether the complaint made is appropriate? Should an enquiry proceed? If not what other actions should be taken?

Once the decision is made to proceed with enquiry, a decision should be made as who will lead investigations? If the issue is serious, refer it to Hackney council and they will lead the case from this stage. Also at this stage, ensure to safeguard concerned individuals who may be at risk and check if any immediate protection is needed?

Stage 4 – Investigation & Safeguarding Planning Meeting

Co-ordinate all information collected about abuse or neglect that has occurred or might occur. This includes criminal and disciplinary investigation. Establish facts, carry a risk analysis, inform about the decision and produce a report. All these facts and report formed must be discussed in Safeguarding Planning Meeting. Develop appropriate plan and record the plan along with meeting minutes in a document.

Also agree a review date for the actions planned. In case of council services involved, send all the above details to them.

Stage 5 – Review

Check if the agreed plans are in action or not and see if any further actions are needed. If there is an ongoing risk of harm and abuse, safeguarding plan should be reviewed in a timely manner depending on the situation and level of risk.

Closure of safeguarding process

Record and monitor the process of safeguarding and its outcomes. The aim is to:

With concern person to what extent the outcomes have achieved?

What difference did the process make?

The closure of the process should be documented and signed by concern parties and management.