

# The Government's plan for safeguarding adults



Easy Read version of:  
Statement of Government Policy  
on Adult Safeguarding



## Some words we use in this paper

### Safeguarding

This means protecting everyone's right to be safe and stopping abuse.

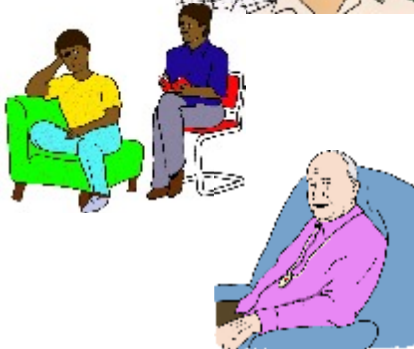
Organisations that work with people who might be at risk must have plans about safeguarding.

### People who might be at risk from abuse

This means someone who is over 18 and cannot look after or protect themselves.

It could include people who:

- have a physical or sensory disability
- have a learning disability
- have mental health problems
- are older
- live in a care home.



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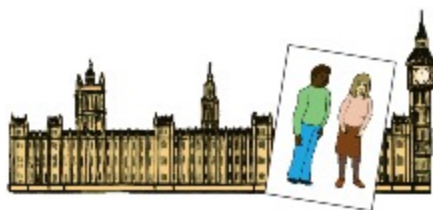


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# 1. About this paper



The Government wrote this paper. It is about adults who might be at risk from abuse or not getting the right care or support.



It tells you about the Government's plan for safeguarding and says:

- how services like councils, housing, health and the police should plan and check safeguarding



- what should happen for services and people if safeguarding is done well.



We wrote a paper about this in 2011.

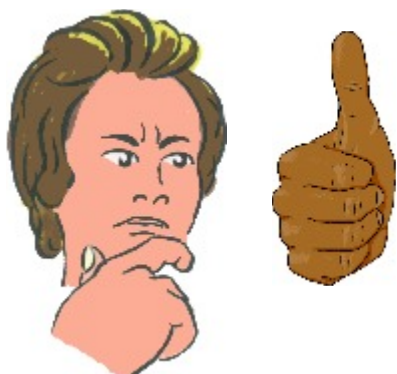
A paper called **No Secrets** said how services should work with people in local communities to keep people safe.



Since then there have been lots of changes and new laws to give people more choice about health and social care.



This paper talks about these changes and how to keep people safe without taking away their choice and control.



We have also tried to make it easier to understand.





## 2. The Government's plan

We want to keep people safe from all types of harm.



But we do not want to stop them making their own choices and having control over their lives.

We believe everyone in the community should understand about safeguarding and help keep people safe by:



- stopping abuse



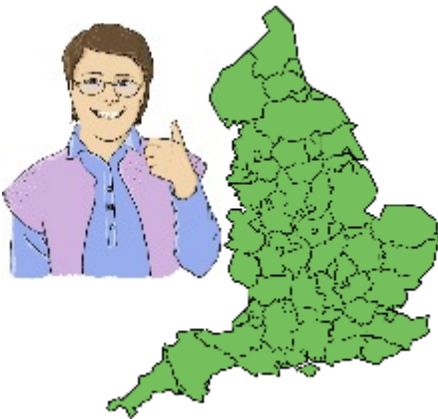
- knowing about different types of abuse



- telling services what is happening



The Government must have rules and plans about safeguarding.



Then local services must decide how to use these to keep people safe in their area.



Local people often have ideas about how to do things differently. Services must work together to make sure people get the lives they want, not just worry about keeping to the rules.



### 3. What local services must do



Services must think about keeping people safe in everything they do.

It is their job to give good safe care that supports people well



This means working together to make sure people have care and support to live better lives. Not just sticking to rules and doing the same things services have always done.



Services must know how to act if there are worries about safeguarding.



This includes:

- finding out what has happened
- dealing with staff if they have abused someone or not given the right care or support





- changing the way the service does things



- training staff



- involving the police.



They must decide when a problem is about safeguarding and when it is about other things to do with good care.



We expect local councils to plan good and safe services that give people the support they need.



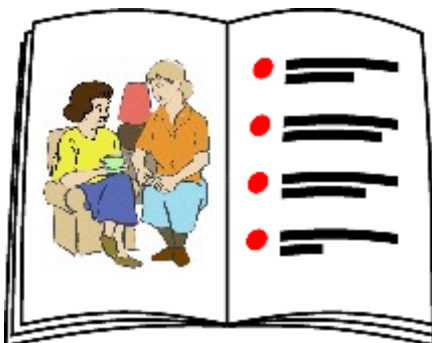
And we expect councils, people who run services and The Care Quality Commission (CQC) to act quickly if someone tells them about poor care or abuse.



Local services should work together in ways that are right for local people and places.



But they must all stick to the important ideas that are part of our plan.



The next section talks about these important **principles** which are ways we expect services to behave.



## 4. Principles – how we expect services to behave

Services should use these ideas to check how they safeguard adults.



We thought about what people said about safeguarding, making decisions and more personal services.



They told us:

- it is better to help people be in control of their lives and stop abuse before it happens, rather than have to deal with abuse



- if services do have to find out about abuse, they must make sure it works as well as it can for the person.



## The Safeguarding Principles

- the person should feel in control and decide what they want to happen





- stop abuse before it happens



- think about the risks when you decide what to do and do not interfere more than you need to



- support and speak up for people who are most at risk



- work with local people to stop abuse, find out about abuse and tell services what is happening



- make sure people can see and check how safeguarding is done.



## 5. Outcomes – making things better

These ideas should make things better for people and for services.



Local services could work with the people who use services and carers to decide what they mean for them.



### What people at risk from abuse should think about safeguarding

- I am asked what I want to happen and services plan safeguarding round this



- I get clear and simple information about what abuse is and who to ask for help

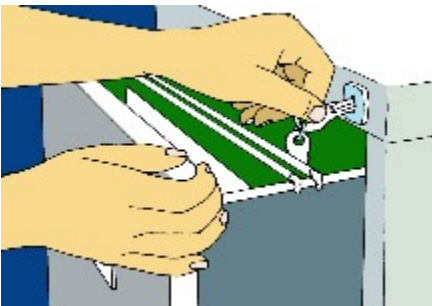




- services think about what is best for me and only get involved when they need to



- I get help and support to tell people about abuse and can get involved in the safeguarding as much or as little as I want



- staff look after my personal information and only share it when this helps to keep me safe



- I know what all the different people should do to keep me safe.



If safeguarding is done well the person should agree that:



## People worked together to keep me safe and well

- I had the information I needed in a way that was right for me



- people helped me to plan and think about risks



- people understood me and knew what I could do and what things I needed help with



- I chose who was involved



- I had good care and felt safe and in control



- people noticed when things went wrong and did something quickly.

## People worked together to help me when I was abused



- people saw what was happening and did something about it



- people asked what I wanted to happen and worked with me to do this



- I chose who was involved



- I got the help I needed from people who could do this well



- this help made things better for me



- people will learn from what happened to me and this will help them support other people better



- even if I did not agree with some decisions, I understood why people made them.

## What local services should think about safeguarding



- we give people information to help them understand how to keep safe and tell people about abuse



- we ask the person before we do anything and think about what is important to them if they cannot make a decision for themselves



- we are good at thinking about risks and dealing with complaints. Local people know how to tell us about abuse and find out who to talk to



- we help the community understand and tell us about abuse and train our staff to stop it happening. We always think about how to make the community safer







- we talk to the person and other services before we think about risks and decide what to do



- we are good at sharing information with other services so we can all support the person to be safe and well



- everyone knows how to stop abuse and keep people safe.



## 6. Links with other Government papers



Our plan for safeguarding links with other papers about keeping people safe in their communities.



### No Secrets

This paper says how services should work with people in local communities to keep people safe.

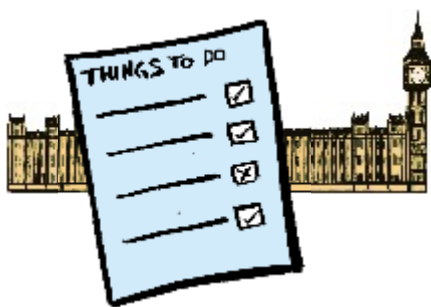


The law will say councils must have Safeguarding Adults Boards but they can work in different ways to keep local people safe.



This will make sure services work together and do the things they should.

## Caring for Our Future



This paper is about changes the Government wants for health and social care services.



We want people to have more support to stay healthy and independent in their community and to stop things going wrong.



We want people to have more control and better support and to choose how to spend the money for their care.



Services must think about these things and not take away people's independence and choice when they try to keep them safe.



## Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework

This paper helps us check how well the Government and local councils are doing with social care.



We will make sure it asks people to think about safeguarding.

## 7. Links with other Government ideas



Since 2011 there have been lots of reports and new laws about social care and keeping people safe.



They all show how the Government wants to give people and communities more power to:

- make decisions that are right for them



- keep themselves safe



- decide the most important things for local police to do



## 8. Other information

There is a lot of information on the internet to help people understand our ideas about safeguarding.

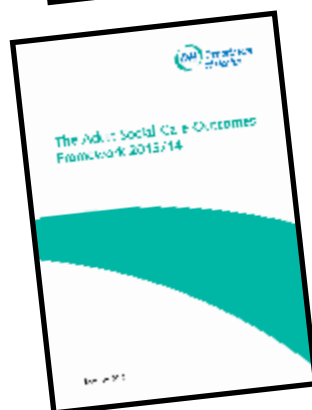


**On the Government website:**  
**[www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)**

- A Vision for Adult Social Care: Capable Communities and Active Citizens



- Practical Approaches to safeguarding and personalisation



- 2011/12 Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework



- guides for health services.



**On the SCIE website:**  
**[www.scie.org.uk](http://www.scie.org.uk)**

- videos to help staff learn how to involve people who use services and keep them safe



- reports about safeguarding and different types of abuse



**On the Local Government website:**  
**[www.local.gov.uk](http://www.local.gov.uk)**

- information and advice for Directors of Adult Social Services.





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