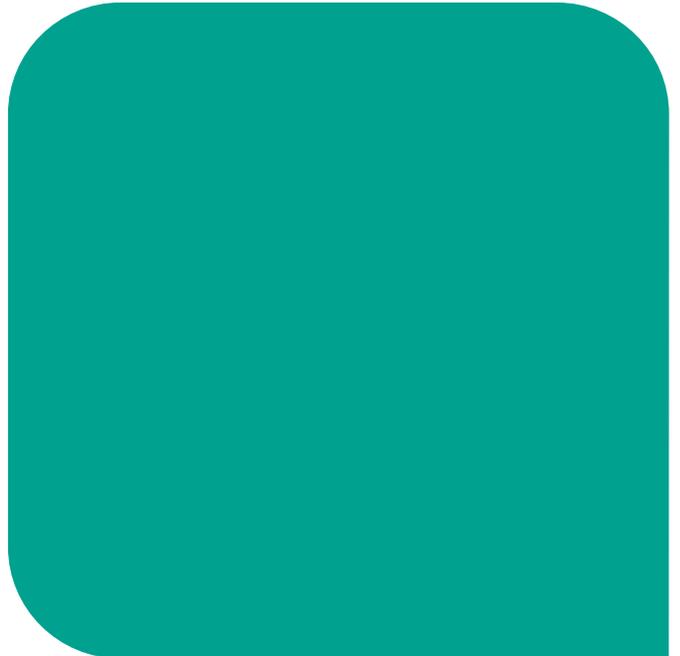




social care
institute for excellence

Protecting adults at risk: Good practice guide



Introduction

Living a life that is free from harm and abuse should be a fundamental right for every person. We all need to act as good neighbours and citizens by looking out for one another and seeking to prevent circumstances that can easily lead to abusive situations and place adults at risk of harm. This is a fundamental principle of a caring, compassionate and fair society.

When abuse does take place, it needs to be dealt with swiftly, effectively and in a way that is proportionate to the issues, where the adult at risk stays as much in control of the decision-making as possible. The rights of the individual to be central to the process and heard throughout are a critical element of the drive towards more personalised care and support.

In London, as elsewhere, the main statutory agencies – local councils, the police and National Health Service (NHS) organisations – need to work together both to promote safer communities – thereby preventing harm and abuse – and to deal well with suspected or actual cases. That is why we have come together to produce this good practice resource to accompany *Protecting adults at risk: London multi-agency policy and procedures to safeguard adults from abuse (2)*. It is our firm belief that adults at risk are best protected when procedures between statutory agencies are consistent across London.

This resource has been written to assist organisations across the capital that are involved in protecting adults at risk in implementing good practice in their work. Its aim is to explain simply and clearly how agencies and individuals should work together to protect adults at risk, and it can be used in whatever way is most helpful to the organisations concerned. The target audience is everybody working with adults at risk in a paid or unpaid capacity.

The resource is not intended to be a representation of the law and where necessary you should seek appropriate legal advice. Please be aware that recommended policy and practice change over time, and we will reflect this with periodic reviews of the content of this resource.