

# Southampton Safeguarding Adults Board

## Framework for Addressing Safeguarding Concerns within NHS Provision

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Southampton   
University Hospitals NHS Trust



Hampshire Partnership   
NHS Foundation Trust

# Principles of the Framework

Investigations into safeguarding concerns arising in NHS provision will take place under the auspices of the Adult Safeguarding Procedure for which the Local Authority has a lead co-ordinating responsibility.

The approach outlined reflects the national guidelines published by the Department of Health in its document called “Clinical Governance and Adult Safeguarding - An Integrated Process (February 2010).

The investigation process will be:

- linked to mainstream multi-agency safeguarding adult procedures.
- transparent with external scrutiny built in to the process to promote independence and to avoid self policing.
- integrated with the NHS clinical governance framework e.g. adverse incident reporting, complaints and risk management\*

# Reporting Forms

NHS adverse incident reporting forms need to be cross referenced with the adult safeguarding procedure and amended to include the following trigger question:

“Has this incident harmed or placed at risk of harm, a vulnerable adult?  
If yes, does the information presented suggest the need for a safeguarding alert to be raised?”

Likely incidents leading to concerns being investigated under the adult safeguarding process include incidents relating to:

- poor practice
- neglect/acts of omission
- policies or procedures not being followed

in which the VA has been harmed or placed at risk of harm e.g. their physical/emotional well being has been adversely affected as a result.

Organisation will assess the incident report and if it is decided that it falls within the remit of the Adult Safeguarding Procedure an alert should be made to the Adult Contact Team or Hospital Discharge Bureau.

# Criteria to determine a NHS led intervention

## Decision Making Criteria:

- a 'one-off', isolated incident
- no previous history of similar incidents recorded for the vulnerable adult.
- no previous history of similar incidents recorded for the organisation.
- no previous history of abuse by the person alleged to be responsible.
- not part of a repeating or escalating pattern of abuse.
- no clear criminal offence described in the safeguarding alert.
- there is not a clear intent to harm or exploit the vulnerable person.
- no indication of-going risk to the vulnerable adult or other vulnerable people.
- incident being managed appropriately by the organisation.

## Level of Response:

- Organisation reports incident to the LA and agrees strategy & level of intervention
- Organisation carries out an internal investigation
- Organisation reports back the outcome to the nominated adult social care officer
- Organisation monitors in liaison with the nominated adult social care officer

## Action & Outcomes:

- Organisation reports incident to the LA
- Makes the required notification to regulatory body.
- Action taken by organisation to address 'presenting concerns' are documented.
- Organisation reports outcomes to the nominated adult social care officer
- May result in minor alterations in the way service is provided to a vulnerable adult.
- May result in changes to the way staff/other resources are deployed in the delivery of care.

# Process Map

