

Safeguarding in a modern care setting



Wellbeing is at the core of care and safeguarding is a major element of wellbeing. Safeguarding should always be a key principle of how services are delivered by an organisation and should be considered as part of a holistic approach with individuals' wishes taken into account and respected.

Safeguarding is a very complex issue and impacts on an enormous amount of the day to day running of a care setting. The issues span The Care Act 2015, employment legislation, disciplinary procedures, record keeping, Serious Crime Act 2015, Mental Capacity Act (DoLS), person centred approaches, views, feelings and beliefs, data protection and confidentiality; the implications are extensive.

To highlight a few objectives of the The Care Act 2015, reducing harm in care, transparency and sharing of information were at the forefront and all directly relate to safeguarding. As with any issue, preventative action is the best course. As a provider of care, the initial care assessment is vital in setting the correct environment and conform to the preventative agenda. A registered manager will also need to consider individual needs and requirements when recruiting and attempt to match employees behaviours and attitude with the needs of those receiving care.

The care sector landscape has changed over recent years and safeguarding is no longer confined to the walls of a residential care setting. Safeguarding is now viewed as a community issue. Until such a time comes when abuse or neglect do not exist, public awareness of safeguarding needs to be heightened. More people need to take responsibility so that the prevention, identification and response to abuse and neglect becomes more frequent and effective.

The shared objective will improve quality of life, wellbeing and safety of those individuals that expect safeguarding within a community as a minimum standard of an individuals' respect and freedom. As a provider of care, not only do you need to consider safeguarding those that rely on the service, but also their families and friends and the carers working within that community. By offering care, the organisation automatically becomes part of a community, therefore a safe and effective environment is required.

There are 6 key principles of safeguarding and they are as follows:



Empowerment:

Whenever possible, those at the centre of a safeguarding issue should feel empowered, supported, encouraged and very importantly be able to offer informed consent; the process must be person lead.

Prevention:

It is better to take action prior to abuse or neglect occurring, increasing the importance of a community wide awareness. Relevant training will have a positive impact on the ability to take preventative action.

Proportionality:

The least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented, to work with the individuals in their best interests, the process should be person centred and outcome driven.

Protection:

Support and protection for those most in need, bearing in mind that everyone has a vulnerability, so again extends further than the individuals that receive the care service.

Partnerships:

Multiagency working, normally headed up by the localised Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB), which will work towards making sure that neglect and abuse are prevented, detected and reported.

Accountability:

The process needs to be accountable and transparent. High standards of record keeping and data protection will be required.

Abuse and neglect aren't always the result of a deliberate action. A large proportion of safeguarding activity is caused by bad practices, poor quality service or lack of understanding.



Care providers need to make sure that they have done everything in their power in relation to safeguarding. This can be achieved by making sure that they have policies and procedures in place and they are following guidelines from the local Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB). But a care home that wants to achieve excellence would create a culture around those policies and procedures, a culture of continuing development of their staff.

A care organisation that wants to achieve excellence would have a robust training programme in place that surpasses statutory requirements with regular updates and different delivery styles in place to arm their staff with the appropriate knowledge and understanding. This would empower the staff team to take preventative action, reduce the risk, deliver transparency and share best practice.

Below you will find a small check list that you may find useful when you are considering safeguarding within your organisation:

- Is our safeguarding policy in place and in line with the latest standards and any local authority criteria?
- Do all the staff understand what safeguarding issues to be aware of?
- Do we have a system to check whether the safeguards are effective?

Do the staff and clients know who to report a safeguarding issue to?

- Within the workplace
- External to the workplace

- Do we have a safeguarding policy displayed?
- Do our safeguarding policies and procedures cover children e.g. to ensure visitors are safeguarded?

Some useful contacts relating to this topic:

- [Your local Safeguarding Adults Board \(SAB\)](#)
- [Care Quality Commission](#)
- [Police](#)

You can also find information relating to the [Duty Of Candour](#) on the Redcrier website which is heavily linked to the transparency aspect of safeguarding.

If you have any further questions relating to safeguarding then please feel free to contact Redcrier for assistance info@redcrier.com or **01823 332 200**