



Safeguarding Adults Fact Sheet: Number 6

Information for Relatives & Friends

Involvement of relatives & friends

The safeguarding adult procedures are there to protect adults at risk from abuse or neglect.

It is important that if the adult at risk wants their relatives and friends to be involved within the safeguarding procedures that this happens. This will help them feel fully supported when dealing with difficult or distressing issues.

If the adult at risk gives their consent, it will be possible to share with you the concerns for their welfare or safety. It will also be possible to involve you within meetings about how concerns or allegations are being addressed and how your relative/friend is being supported to be safe in the future.

If an the adult at risk decides that they do not wish for a relative or friend to be informed or involved, then those involved in the safeguarding arrangements will need to respect this decision. If your relative or friend does not have the mental capacity to decide this for themselves, a decision will need to be made in their 'best interests' in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Roles within the safeguarding procedures

Relatives or friends may have a range of roles depending on the circumstances and wishes of the adult at risk.

These may include a role in:

- supporting the adult at risk to tell professionals what their views and wishes are and to help make sure these views are heard
- supporting the person through difficult meetings or interviews about distressing experiences
- sharing knowledge about the risks your relative/friend is experiencing and their support needs

- contributing to the Protection Plan; this a record of the agreed actions that will keep the person safe from harm
- supporting an assessment of needs, sometimes this may include your needs as a carer
- advocating for the adult at risk according to their wishes, or in their best interests if they do not have the mental capacity to represent themselves on particular issues.

If I have questions, who can I speak to?

If the concern has met the threshold for Safeguarding procedures and has progressed to a Planning meeting, you can ask to speak to the Safeguarding Lead Worker or the Safeguarding Coordinator who oversees the work of the Lead Worker.

You may wish to record their contact details or any other information here:

Other Information

This is one of a series of Fact Sheets for Adults at Risk. These also are intended to be helpful to relatives and friends.

No.1: What happens after abuse is reported?

No.2: Easy read: What happens after abuse is reported?

No.3: What is a Planning Meeting/Planning Discussion?

No.4: What is a Safeguarding Adult Enquiry?

No.5: What is a Safeguarding Adult Review Meeting?

No.6: Information for relatives and friends

No.7: Safeguarding Adults Enquiry - information for those alleged to have caused harm

Further Information

The Fact Sheets and the Bath and North East Somerset Safeguarding Adult Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures are available for anyone to read at:

<http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/care-and-support-and-you/safeguarding-and-legal-information>

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