



# Derbyshire and Derby City **Strategy** for management of adult survivors of non- recent abuse in childhood

There is a separate **Practice Guidance** for management  
of adult survivors of non-recent abuse in childhood

This document replaces all other previous published versions and should be read in conjunction with the <a href="#">Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Procedures</a>					
Ver	Author/s	Updated by	Signed off by	Date	Review Date
1.	Designated Nurse on behalf of Derby City and Derbyshire Strategic Management Group & Partner agencies.	-	DSCB Policy and Procedures Group	April 2018	
2.		DHCFT & Partner agencies	DDSCP Policies & Procedures Group	May 2023	May 2026

# **Derbyshire and Derby City Strategy for adult survivors of non-recent abuse in childhood**

## **Rationale**

This strategy has been developed to provide a framework for the safeguarding partnership across Derby and Derbyshire to follow in situations where a person makes an allegation of non-recent childhood abuse.

There is a growing recognition that a disclosure of non-recent abuse may reveal current risks to others from an alleged perpetrator.

All front line public servants and their management have a duty of care to their clients, and in the safeguarding of others. This may place them in complex positions when trying to negotiate and balance their duties and responsibilities.

Practice Guidance has been developed to help to address some of these dilemmas. It will outline options for responding to disclosure and help front line staff to be clearly accountable for the decisions they make. It is hoped that this Practice Guidance will enable any response to be as effective as possible in supporting adults at risk, as well as in ensuring they meet their duty to safeguard children and young people or adults who may be at risk now.

At the time of writing this strategy, an Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) was underway investigating whether public bodies and other non-state institutions have taken seriously their duty of care to protect children from sexual abuse in England and Wales. It is expected that this will take some time to be completed and may result in further guidance and possible legislative changes. The final report was published in October 2022 - [The Report of the Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse | IICSA Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse](#).

The Care Act (2014) focus is on making safeguarding personal and where possible, facilitating the individual to make decisions regarding their safety and well-being, for them to be an integral part of the safeguarding process.

There is a separate [Derbyshire and Derby City Practice Guidance for management of adult survivors of non-recent abuse in childhood](#) on the DDSCP website

## Introduction

The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC) defines non-recent abuse (also known as historical abuse) as an allegation of neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse made by or on behalf of someone who is now 18 years or over, relating to an incident which took place when the alleged victim was under 18 years old. However, it is also important to recognise that a young person, under 18 years old, may disclose non recent abuse, although this would be addressed in accordance with [Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children's policies and procedures](#).

In the last few years, there has been increasing public awareness of the extent of historic child abuse, particularly sexual abuse. There has been high profile media coverage about non-recent abuse allegations by adults who have come forward about maltreatment in children's Local Authority Residential Care Homes and other statutory care establishments. Allegations have also been made within the English and Irish churches, and there have been a number of high-profile cases involving 'celebrities' as alleged perpetrators.

People often delay disclosure of abuse into adulthood (Read et al., 2006), however, publicity around these cases may make it more likely that people will disclose information that they may have previously felt too frightened or ashamed to share. According to the ONS, around 15% (one in seven) adults who called the National Association for People Abused in Childhood's (NAPAC's) helpline in 2019 had not reported their abuse to anyone before.

## Underpinning values

Derby City and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership will work together as a safeguarding adult and children community to consider cross boundary safeguarding arrangements and to support survivors of abuse.

We stand united and committed to the prevention of abuse and to provide person centred responses when abuse has occurred as part of any inquires (criminal/safeguarding) or therapeutic interventions

We believe that:

- Many forms of abuse are a crime and should be responded to as a crime.
- The passage of time does not make a difference to a person who has been harmed
- Person led support requires everyone to work together and will require services to work creatively and to communicate effectively
- Evaluation of services provided to those affected and learning from national reviews and from research evidence base is critical in providing future service development.

## **Strategic aims of Derbyshire and Derby City Safeguarding Children Partnership.**

- We shall promote a culture which embraces the principles of safeguarding adults and safeguarding children, recognising the impact of trauma in early years which can continue throughout adult life.
- We shall develop a trauma informed workforce who are trained and supported to recognise non-recent abuse and to support the individual and their families in a person centred way in accordance with the “Think Family” approach.
- We shall work towards enlightening the workforce on the relevance of adverse childhood events on the future impact on a person’s life outcomes including an adult’s ability to successfully parent and where possible to put in place strategies to enable parents to thrive in their family settings.
- We shall actively promote an overall approach of supporting victims of non-recent childhood abuse in a way which encompass honesty, integrity, transparency and learning from adversity.
- We will manage clear lines of communication between agencies including management of difference of opinion.
- We shall maintain a clear multiagency response to media challenge through the communication strategies that are available at senior management level within the agencies and organisations involved.

## **Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership**

Identification of organisational risk and management of non-recent abuse in childhood is identified and managed as relevant through the senior management arrangements within individual agencies. Whilst recognising that public services have a legal requirement to disclose any mistakes or serious incidents under the *Duty of Candour* it is essential for confidentiality to protect vulnerable people and potential perpetrators who have a right to privacy pending Police investigation and criminal trial.

It will be relevant in some potentially high profile cases to inform Ofsted, the relevant ICB, or Her Majesty’s Police Inspector of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMPICFRS) of progress in the management of these cases.

Media and communications are recognised as an important element in the management of non – recent abuse cases and will be addressed in line with an agreed strategy held by the Communications lead for the DDSCP and linking in with the Safeguarding Adult Boards.

## **Overarching Roles and Responsibilities of Key Partners to support victims / survivors**

### **Police**

The Police have specially trained detectives available to interview victims of abuse, and when people are ready to do so, being interviewed by staff with the appropriate skills which can be a helpful part of the recovery process. However, alongside some of these beneficial effects, the experience may also have the effect of heightening distress and intrusive memories.

It is helpful to provide victims/survivors with information about what to expect when they make a disclosure to the Police or other agencies. They need to be aware that they may face a long wait of several months if their evidence is passed on to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), who will decide on whether there is enough evidence to proceed with a case through to court.

Victims/survivors should also be supplied with information about making a complaint, should they feel that their case has not been appropriately handled

The Police will check whether the alleged perpetrator is known to them already, potentially through Multi Agency Public Protection Arrangements (MAPPA), Multiagency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), Multiagency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), Safeguarding Co-ordination Hub, Vulnerable Adults Risk Management (VARM) and intelligence processes. This concerns known offenders and if there it is felt to be immediate significant risk to children, then safeguarding agencies will need to intervene.

**Contact can be made via Tel: 101 and Tel: 999 for emergencies**

### **Social Care**

Children's Social Care takes relevant steps to see whether any named children are known to them and where a child may be in need of protection and take relevant steps to keep the child/children safe.

The Derby and Derbyshire [Adults who Disclose non-recent abuse](#) procedure should also be followed.

**Contact can be made via**

**Derbyshire County = Starting Point on Tel: 01629 533190**

**Derby City = Initial Response Team on Tel: 01332 641172 or Out Of Hours Tel: 01332 956606**

Adult Social Care considers persons at risk under the Care Act (2014). The focus is on making safeguarding personal and where possible, facilitating the individual to make decisions regarding their safety and well-being, for them to be an integral part of the safeguarding process.

**Derbyshire County = Call Derbyshire on Tel: 01629 533190**

**Derby City = Adult Social Care on Tel: 01332 640777**

### **Other organisation responsibility**

There are several risks and challenges to take into account when working with the health need complexities provided by survivors of non-recent abuse in childhood.

Each case is different and therefore will require varied approaches and timescales to facilitate best outcomes for bringing perpetrators to justice and for bringing therapeutic resolution for the survivors of childhood abuse who have already suffered and have demonstrated their bravery in order to keep future generations of children safe.

Anyone with identified health needs should be encouraged to make an appointment to see their GP, and seek support from: [Derby & Derbyshire - Emotional Health & Wellbeing](#)

- It is essential to have clear lines of communication between all agencies and organisations to ensure that joint consultation takes place in order to keep clients and children safe.
- Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership – Escalation Policy should be used for the management of difference of opinion between the agencies.

### **Special circumstances**

There can be additional factors which mean that issues around safeguarding become more complex:

- **Allegations against former or current members of staff** – If the alleged perpetrator is a public service employee or clinician, they may have ongoing access to children and young people, or vulnerable adults. They may also have current access to medical agencies. If such an allegation has been raised then it is important to follow the [DDSCP Allegations against Staff, Carers and Volunteers procedure](#) and to involve the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO). This should be taken forward within the context of your organisational procedures.
- **Persons in a position of trust (PIPOT)**. The statutory guidance to the Care Act 2014 requires Safeguarding Adults Boards to establish and agree a framework and process to respond to allegations against anyone who works (either paid or unpaid) with adults with care and support needs.

The purpose of this guidance is to provide a framework for managing cases where allegations have been made against a person in a position of trust (PIPOT) and is focussed on the management of risk based on an assessment of abuse or harm against an adult with care and support needs. It provides a framework to ensure appropriate actions are taken to manage allegations, regardless of whether they are made in connection with the PIPOT's employment, in their private life, or any other capacity. This guidance applies

to the local authority, all partner agencies and commissioned local authorities' relevant partners, and those providing care and support services.

- **The alleged perpetrator is a high-profile person** – High profile cases must be managed closely by the Police senior investigating officer (SIO). Each case must be treated individually to manage any specific challenges it may pose. Relevant professionals should have regular meetings as the case progresses, so that the interests of victims/witnesses are looked after. The wider investigation would handle media and criminal legal matters. For those survivors who have been involved in high profile cases subject to media scrutiny, the police will work with partners to formulate a bespoke support package as part of its investigation.
- **Allegations concerning local authority residential setting** – If such an allegation has been raised then it is important to follow DDSCP policy on Allegations against Staff, Carers and Volunteers procedure and to involve the Local Authority Designated Officer. This should be taken through your own organisational procedures.
- **Allegations concern a different Local Authority area** – Advice should be sought from the safeguarding team and LADO local to the victim and it should be clearly outlined how the information is being transferred on.
- **The alleged perpetrator has died** –. Ensure that victims receive support and identifying those organisations that may have flawed systems which allow abuse to occur or go undetected, are two clear reasons for proceeding with an investigation after the perpetrator's death or other confidential records that could alert them to information having been shared with others.

#### **'Derbyshire trauma informed network'**

Derby and Derbyshire through the work of Derbyshire Healthcare Foundation Trust established a trauma network in October 2017 to inform practitioners working in this area and to appraise learning and research to improve the experiences of victims and survivors of non-recent trauma.

#### **Support contact details for survivors of and those affected by Abuse:**

**Samaritans** 116 123 UK (open 24/7)

**Derbyshire Health Care Foundation Trust – Support Line 0800 028 0077**

Website: [Support for Derbyshire people experiencing anxiety or distress](#)

**CISters (Surviving Rape and/or Sexual Abuse) 02380 338080**

Answerphone 023 80 338080 is usually monitored daily during the week and callers can choose to leave their name and phone number, and we will call them back and will take care when doing so. Or email [admin@cisters.org.uk](mailto:admin@cisters.org.uk)

The helpline is available to female adult survivors of childhood rape/sexual abuse, and others can call if they have a concern about such issues. In the case of the latter we will seek to signpost them to appropriate services.

**HAVOCA – Help for Adult Victims of Child Abuse**

HAVOCA is run by survivors for adult survivors of child abuse. “We provide support, friendship and advice for any adult who’s life has been affected by childhood abuse.” Please note: HAVOCA does not offer telephone support, they say they offer a number of resources online.

Website: <https://www.havoca.org/>

**MOSAC (Mothers of Sexually Abused Children) 0800 980 1958**

Supporting all non-abusing parents and carers whose children have been sexually abused. We provide various types of support services and information for parents, carers and professionals dealing with child sexual abuse.

Website: [www.mosac.org.uk](http://www.mosac.org.uk)

**The National Association for People Abused in Childhood (NAPAC)**

Call 0800 085 3330 for free from landlines, 3, Orange and Virgin mobile phones. Call 0808 801 0331 for free from O2, T-Mobile and Vodafone mobile phones.

NAPAC provides a national Freephone support line for adults who have suffered any type of abuse in childhood.

Telephone support line opening hours: Monday – Thursday 10:00am-9.00pm and Friday 10.00am-6.00pm

Website: [NAPAC](http://NAPAC)

**PODS: Positive Outcomes for Dissociative Survivors**

A project of Survivors Trauma and Abuse Recovery Trust (START)

PODS works to make recovery from dissociative disorders a reality through training, informing and supporting

Helpline: 0800 181 4420 – Tuesdays 6-8pm or appointments at other times by contacting the office

Email: [mail@start-online.org.uk](mailto:mail@start-online.org.uk) (for START) or [info@pods-online.org.uk](mailto:info@pods-online.org.uk) (for PODS)

Website: [www.start-online.org.uk](http://www.start-online.org.uk) and [www.pods-online.org.uk](http://www.pods-online.org.uk)

**Safeline**

Safeline is a specialised charity working to prevent sexual abuse and to support those affected in their recovery.

Please see website for details of the different helplines available and times of operation.

Website: <https://www.safeline.org.uk/>

**NSPCC** –If you don't feel comfortable contacting the police or want to find out more about your options, you can contact the NSPCC. They are there to support you, no matter your worry. Call them on 0808 800 5000, email [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) or fill in their [online form](#)

**SupportLine 01708 765200**

Confidential emotional support to children, young adults and adults by telephone, email and post SupportLine specialises in providing emotional support for adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse and anyone who has been raped/sexually assaulted.

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings 5:00pm to 7:30pm

Website: [www.supportline.org.uk](http://www.supportline.org.uk)

### **The Survivors Trust**

Support, Advice and Info - 0808 801 0818

The Survivors Trust (TST) is a UK-wide national umbrella agency for 130 specialist organisations for support for the impact of rape, sexual violence and childhood sexual abuse throughout the UK and Ireland.

Website: <http://thesurvivorstrust.org/>

### **SurvivorsUK Helpline Web Chat**

National Helpline Web Chat for adult male survivors of rape or sexual abuse (Monday – Friday 10.30 – 21:00; Saturday – Sunday 10:00 – 18:00)

Website: [www.survivorsuk.org](http://www.survivorsuk.org)

### **SV2 supporting victims of sexual violence** (Countywide

service) Helpline 01773 746115 open 8am – 5pm on Monday – Friday

Sexual Assault Referral Centre for forensic medical examination for 16+ and Independent Sexual Violence Adviser Service for Adults and Children

Therapeutic services also available for adults and children Email: [help@sv2.org.uk](mailto:help@sv2.org.uk)

### **SAIL – sexual abuse and incest line**

Helpline 01246 559889 open 1pm – 4pm

### **References:**

Conti, G., Morris, S., Melnychuk, M., Pizzo, E. (2017) The economic cost of child maltreatment in the UK: a preliminary study. London: NSPCC.

Bentley, H. et al (2017) How safe are our children? The most comprehensive overview of child protection in the UK 2017

CPS (2011) Provision of therapy for vulnerable or intimidated adult witnesses prior to a criminal trial - Practice guidance.

<https://www.cps.gov.uk/publications/prosecution/pretrialadult.html>

Working Together to Safeguard Children (DoE 2018) – this statutory guidance is under review

Guidance document on the management of disclosure of non-recent (historic) child sexual abuse – The British Psychological Society – May 2016