

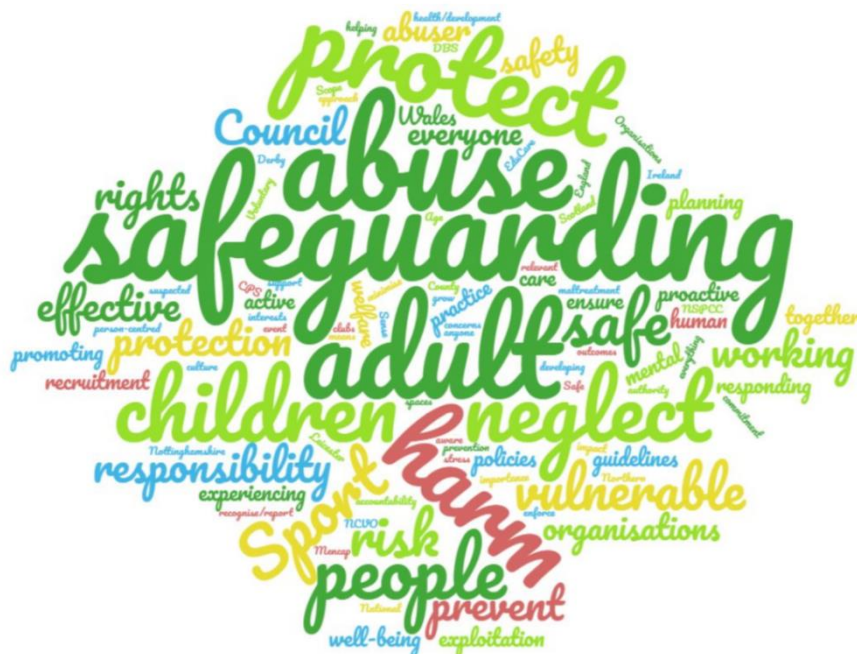
What Safeguarding is.

Safeguarding is about people and organisations working together to prevent and reduce both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect.

Safeguarding is ultimately another word for supporting people. It means preventing harm and reducing the risk of abuse or neglect.

Within our policy and procedures safeguarding means protecting the health, wellbeing, and human rights of adults at risk (people), enabling them to live safely, free from abuse, neglect and harm. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility.

‘Safeguarding means protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.’ (Care Act 2014 – Statutory Guidance section 14.7)



Please consider the **promotion of wellbeing in every interaction** and involvement. Click [here](#) to read the Wellbeing chapter.

Adult safeguarding is based on fundamental human rights and on respecting the rights of adults as individuals, treating all adults with dignity, and respecting their right to choose. It involves empowering and enabling all adults, including those at risk of harm, to manage their own health and well-being and to keep themselves safe. It extends to intervening to protect where harm has occurred or is likely to occur and promoting access to justice. It is helpful to think about safeguarding as a verb, an action, responding to and preventing abuse, neglect, or harm. For example, a seatbelt in a car is a safeguard – it can prevent or reduce the impact of harm in an accident. In other words, we can safeguard people by taking or recommending actions to keep them safe, safer, or free from harm. Safety is often a subjective matter, and therefore safeguarding interventions should always be introduced in accordance with the wishes of the person. Click [here](#) to read the Making Safeguarding Personal chapter.

People's wishes are vitally important – as wrapping people up in bubble wrap may keep them safer but will restrict their freedom – therefore there's a balance to be struck between person-centered safeguarding and over-protectionism.

“Safeguarding is making people aware of their rights”

Safeguarding also means making sure that the adult's **wellbeing** is supported and their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs are respected when agreeing on any action. Often people do not know what their rights are, or how to exercise these rights. In such circumstances people may need advice, guidance, a listening ear, or someone to advocate on their behalf.

Safeguarding is:

- preventing [abuse](#) and [neglect](#);
- promoting good practice for responding to concerns on a multiagency basis;
- considering the risks to others and taking appropriate measures to prevent such risk;

- safeguarding adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live their lives;
- supporting recovery to reduce the impact of abuse and/or neglect;
- protecting where, and when necessary;
- raising public awareness - so that our community as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in identifying, preventing, and responding to abuse and neglect;
- providing information and support in accessible ways to help people understand the different types of abuse, how to stay safe and what to do to raise a concern about the safety or well-being of an adult.

Safeguarding also means identifying and taking proportionate measures to address the source of the abuse or neglect – in a timely way.

Safeguarding should not be used as a threat to organisations or individuals. Equally safeguarding should not be seen as punitive action or be viewed with negative connotations.

The primary principle of adult safeguarding is empowerment, to restore power and control to individuals, with them, for them and with due consideration for the protection of others.

The six principles of adult safeguarding apply in all safeguarding scenarios - from individual case work, and to how agencies work together effectively with one another.



Safeguarding is NOT a substitute for:

- providers' responsibilities to provide safe and good quality care and support;
- commissioners regularly assuring themselves of the safety and effectiveness of commissioned services;
- effective clinical and governance processes;

- regulators ensuring that regulated providers comply with the expected standards of care and taking enforcement action where necessary;
- core duties of the Police and other agencies to prevent and detect crime and protect life and property.

However, safeguarding can run alongside and support the core functions and findings of other agencies within the partnership.

Safeguarding adults work also includes the involvement of a broad range of organisations, service areas and workers, all of whom will need to be aware of their roles and responsibilities, on both an internal agency and multiagency basis.

Remember informal carers are also to be considered in respect of the supportive functions of safeguarding; promoting their wellbeing and safety, assessing and promoting their support needs – and recognising the toll and impact that regular care giving can have. (Adult Safeguarding Practice Questions, Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE))*

Amendment to this chapter

This update provides greater clarity around wider safeguarding responsibilities – and reiterates that safeguarding is a supportive function, and further emphasises that carers should be included in safeguarding responses.