

Deciding if you need to raise a safeguarding concern to Northumberland Local Authority (LA)/Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)

Are you concerned that an adult is at risk of or is experiencing abuse or neglect?

What types of abuse or neglect are you concerned about?

Have you had a conversation with the adult about the concerns and sought their views and wishes? *

Have you discussed and agreed next steps with the adult? *

Have you provided advice, information or signposted the adult?

Where an adult at risk or a child is in immediate danger, or a crime has been committed, steps should be taken to protect their safety by calling 999 for emergency medical assistance and/or the Police

a) Does the adult have needs for care and support (whether or not the LA is meeting any of those needs) and

b) Is the adult experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect? Section 42 (1) (a) & (b) Care Act 2014

YES

If you have reasonable cause to suspect that the adult meets the criteria (a) and (b) have you discussed with the adult about raising a safeguarding concern? * Does the adult wish to raise their own concerns? Do they need support to do this?

NO

If the concerns are not (a) and (b) what further support, advice, information, or signposting can you offer the adult?

UNSURE

Have you spoken to your safeguarding lead within your own organisation? Can you seek advice from others outside of your organisation or consider seeking advice from the LA?

If the outcomes of these discussions give you reasonable cause to suspect S42 (1) (a) & (b) – raise a safeguarding concern to the LA/MASH

YES
[Raise a safeguarding concern](#)

Does the adult want a safeguarding concern to be raised?

NO

HOWEVER, raising a safeguarding concern may be justified e.g., where there is vital risk to the person, or others, where there is a public interest consideration or issue, or where a best interest decision needs to be made (where the adult lacks capacity to make the decision). Then proceed with raising a safeguarding concern.

If you have enough reasonable cause to suspect (b) but you are still unsure about (a), raise an adult safeguarding concern. The LA information gathering responses, under S42 (1) will help make a decision

YES
[Raise a safeguarding concern](#)

*There may be circumstances where the safety of the adult or yourself prevent this from happening. If you still have concerns about abuse or neglect and it is not possible or within the scope of your role to have a conversation with the adult, then if in doubt continue with the process and raise a safeguarding concern.

Diagram Source: [ADASS & LGA - Understanding what constitutes a safeguarding concern and how to support](#)