

Safeguarding Adults Policy & Procedures

June 2025

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Definitions and Scope of this Policy

The statutory definition for adult safeguarding is ‘adult at risk’ which includes an individual that has a need for care and support, is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.’ (Care Act 2014, section 42).

Some groups of people are particularly vulnerable to harm and exploitation, and it is important that their needs are carefully considered: those with disabilities; those living away from home; asylum seekers; victims of domestic abuse; those who may be singled out due to their religion or ethnicity; those who may be exposed to violent extremism.

In Grief Encounter, we understand our safeguarding responsibilities towards adults at risk as:

- Protecting their rights to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- People and organisations working together to prevent the risk of abuse or neglect, and to stop them from happening.
- Making sure their wellbeing is promoted, taking their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs into account.

Who is at risk?

Anyone can be vulnerable to abuse at some time in their life. Those who need safeguarding help are often particularly vulnerable. We know people with a terminal illness are more prone to abuse especially financial abuse.

“Vulnerable adults” used to be the term that was used prior to the Care Act, but it is now commonly referred to as “adults at risk”. The Care Act and the Mental Capacity Act, places a duty on local authorities and others to implement safeguarding for people who, because of issues such as dementia, learning disability, mental ill-health, brain injury (including stroke) or substance abuse, have care and support needs that may make them more vulnerable to abuse or neglect. This list is not exhaustive, but the safeguarding duty is particularly pertinent where a person may lack some mental capacity.

The person who is responsible for the abuse is often well known to the person abused. They could be:

- A paid carer or volunteer.
- A health worker, social care or other worker.
- A relative, friend or neighbour.
- An employer.
- Another resident or service user.
- An occasional visitor or someone who is providing a service.
- Someone who deliberately exploits vulnerable people.

The Purpose

Safeguarding adults' means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

This policy sets out how we will make sure we embed our mission and values, as well as our statutory duties, by:

- Working with adults at risk in a caring and respectful way
- Respecting that all adults at risk have a right to be kept safe and free from harm
- Nurturing circumstances that are warm and welcoming
- Minimising risks when taking part in Grief Encounter activities
- Keeping adults at risk protected from harm
- Identify and respond to domestic abuse, modern slavery and other forms of harm
- Developing close working relationships with other organisations to keep adults safe

It provides a clear set of expectations so that we all know what we have to do when we need to respond to any safeguarding worry or concern that suggests there may be a risk to adults who we are working with.

- Everyone who works for or on behalf of Grief Encounter has a duty to safeguard adults at risk.
- Everyone who works for or on behalf of Grief Encounter has a duty to recognise, respond and share concerns or worries about possible harm or abuse.
- Everyone who works for or on behalf of Grief Encounter will be supported to reflect and take appropriate action in situations of adult safeguarding and domestic violence and abuse.

This policy sets out expectations for all Staff, Volunteers, External Contractors and Trustees who work for, or on behalf of Grief Encounter.

How we make sure we safeguard adults in our work with bereaved children, young people and families

We believe that regardless of the role we play in the organisation, safeguarding is the responsibility of us all. We all therefore commit to ensuring how we work with others keeps them safeguarded to the highest standard.

The principles by which we work and ensure adults are safeguarded are:

- All adults have an equal right to protection from all harm or abuse, regardless of age, ability, gender, racial heritage, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or personal characteristics and we recognise that these factors may present increased vulnerability
- The best interests of the child are paramount in all considerations regarding adult safeguarding
- Where safeguarding concerns are identified, the key principles of working with adults at risk

embedded in the Care Act 2014, will inform our approach. We will also act in accordance with other statutory guidance pertaining to the work of Grief Encounter i.e. The Domestic Abuse Act (2021)

- We will communicate clearly what we have done and will be doing to safeguard any adult at risk, unless in doing so we would increase risk to them or a child. Where this is the case we may need to act without consultation or communication in order to protect the adult or child at risk.
- An adult's capacity will be assumed unless there is reason to believe that the person lacks capacity
- Concerns or allegations that staff or volunteers have abused or neglected adults will be taken very seriously and be managed sensitively and fairly in accordance with these policies, relevant legislation and local procedures

Grief Encounter also works by the 6 principles laid out in the Care and Support Statutory Guidance (Update January 2023):

Empowerment

Adults are encouraged to make their own decisions and are provided with support and information.

Prevention

Strategies are developed to prevent abuse and neglect that promotes resilience and self-determination.

Proportionate

A proportionate and least intrusive response is made balanced with the level of risk.

Protection

Adults are offered ways to protect themselves, and there is a coordinated response to adult safeguarding and well-being.

Partnerships

Local solutions are sought through services working together within their communities.

Accountable

Accountability and transparency in delivering a safeguarding response

Procedures and Practice

Grief Encounter has clearly defined procedures about what to do if safeguarding concerns or worries emerge, about actual harm or where suspected harm, including abuse, might occur. This also includes procedures to help identify actual or potential harm, as well as to respond to incidents that arise. Roles and responsibilities related to safeguarding are detailed in the Safeguarding Children's Policy. Adult safeguarding guided by the Care Act (2014) Statutory Guidance and other relevant frameworks and guidelines as detailed in the Safeguarding Children's Policy.

Safe Recruitment and Safe Practice Procedures

Recruitment is undertaken in line with Grief Encounter's Safeguarding Children's Policy.

Learning Development & Training

All staff and those who work on our behalf are required to complete our mandatory training and other development opportunities.

Line Management Supervision, Clinical Supervision and One-to-One Meetings

Supervision plays a key role in supporting safeguarding. Please see the Safeguarding Children's Policy.

Managing Risk

Grief Encounter has procedures in place for assessing and managing risks with regard to safeguarding children, young people and families, including vulnerable adults. The organisation has a procedure in place for reporting, recording and reviewing safeguarding concerns, and worries, including allegations and significant incidents.

Records

All staff and those who work for or on behalf of Grief Encounter understand the importance of maintaining well-kept records. They know that how information is recorded as well as stored is of the utmost importance, and that where it is suspected or believed that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may be at risk of harm, objective records must be recorded in a timely and accurate manner. The organisation has a clear policy on the management of records, confidentiality, and sharing of information, which adhere to the requirements of GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 (see Data Protection Policy). All staff, and those who work for or on our behalf, are clear about what information can be shared with relevant people within and outside of the organisation. They are aware of local specialist services to go to if they are worried that someone is at risk of harm or abuse.

Fundraising

Grief Encounters aims to comply with the Fundraising Regulator's code of fundraising practice by ensuring that we take into account the needs of any possible donor who may be in vulnerable circumstances or need extra care and support to make an informed decision. This includes not taking a donation if we know, or have good reason to believe, that a person lacks capacity to make a decision to donate, or is in vulnerable circumstances which mean they may not be able to make an informed decision at that time.

Safeguarding Adults Policy and Procedures

1. Communicating Safeguarding Responsibilities

All staff and those who work for or on behalf of Grief Encounter must be aware of Grief Encounter's Safeguarding Policy & Procedures, including any relevant codes of practice.

Staff must ensure that local contact numbers are accessible to all staff and those who work for or on behalf of Grief Encounter. These include contact details for relevant:

- A. Local Emergency Duty Teams, for children and adults, and the Local Area Designated Officer (LADO)
- B. The Local Domestic Violence and Abuse pathway
- C. Local Authorities or Children's Trusts

2. Upholding Professional Boundaries

Maintaining clear professional boundaries is an essential part of safeguarding adults and children as well as ensuring professional conduct and reputation is maintained within Grief Encounter. All people who work for or on behalf of Grief Encounter are required to work in line with the upholding professional boundaries procedures which are detailed in the Safeguarding Children's Policy and must familiarise themselves with this.

Responding to safeguarding concerns

When information is disclosed to you about significant harm that an adult at risk is experiencing, or at risk of, experiencing. *This might be in person, on the phone, via web-chat or email. It might be your own or someone else's observation of signs, symptoms of unmet need, neglect or abuse.*

At Grief Encounter you should make a request for a 'Safeguarding Huddle' to take place immediately on the same day for support to discuss possible actions and options available, with our clinical safeguarding leads and managers. You should do this by making direct, in person, contact with your line manager or senior manager.

What the person receiving the information must do:

1. Always offer reassurance, take seriously and listen to what they are saying. Never promise to keep secrets, or be persuaded to not to take action.
2. It is important to find out relevant information such as their age, name, mobile number, any involvement with Grief Encounter services and a brief outline of what happened to them or their concerns.

3. Explain the process to the person disclosing in an age-appropriate manner: that you will need to pass this information on, to whom, the reasons why and possible actions.
 - It is not your job to investigate or verify what is being said.
 - It is not your job to try to work out whether what has been shared has or has not happened
 - It is not your job to try to work out why something has or has not happened
 - This is the statutory responsibility of the local authority and/or the police
4. Consult with your line manager or other responsible manager as soon as possible to agree the course of action. Do not delay as this may place someone at increased risk. You must record the incident in detail within 24 hours of being made aware on the Grief Encounter Safeguarding Log.

If there is an immediate risk of harm,

Take the appropriate course of action to secure the immediate safety as far as possible. This could include:

- Calming angry or upset people
- Contacting 999 emergency services, if necessary on their behalf
- Contacting local Emergency Duty Team for Adult Social Care
- Seeking vital medical assistance if appropriate
- Contact your manager during normal office hours and the police outside of office hours and or the on call Manager.

If you receive information via a telephone call, please take as much detail as possible, including full name, age/ date of birth, contact details, email address, mobile number, and any involvement with Grief Encounter services.

If they say they are being harmed or someone else is being harmed record a brief outline of what they tell you is happening. If there is an immediate danger, advise them to call the Police; you must also contact the Police to check that the concern has been referred to them. If the person is not in agreement with this/not able to do this, you have a duty to call the Police and pass on any information you have where you believe that there is immediate danger.

Remember, the only time when you would not tell the person what action you are taking, is if to do so would, in your opinion, put them or others in danger.

If you are the line manager, you must:

1. Make direct contact with the person who receives the information immediately on the same day and as soon as the risk of harm comes to your attention.
2. If your assessment is that the adult is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, a referral must be made to the local adult social care team within 24 hours.
3. If your assessment is that a referral is not needed, you must identify what course of action will be taken to respond to the concerns identified and ensure that all decisions and the reasons for them are recorded in accordance with Grief Encounter's recording policy and procedure
4. If there is a disagreement between the Grief Encounter responsible manager and responsible member of staff about the need to report concerns to third parties, the Clinical Services Director must be consulted early on, to make a final decision.
5. You must ensure all decisions and agreed actions are recorded within 24 hours.

Referring Adult at Risk Safeguarding Concern

Taking steps to make a referral must include:

What the person receiving the information must do:

6. Thinking about whether or not to tell the adult and/or their carer about the action you intend to take. It is usually best practice to do so. However, you can refer without informing the adult and/or their carer, if you feel that to do so could place the individual in danger, or at risk of further harm including prejudicing an investigation. If in doubt, you must speak to your line manager.
7. You must speak to your line manager or lead as soon as possible on the day that concerns emerge.
8. Tell the person who disclosed the harm (as appropriate to their age and understanding), that a referral will be made, once you have agreed that to do so would not cause any further risk or harm.
9. Contact the local adult safeguarding team or the Police.
10. Share as much information as possible regarding concerns, worries and known risks. This should include information about the family and the wider context.
11. Make sure it is clear with whoever you talk to from the Adult Social Care team, what the agreed next steps are, and what actions will be taken by whom and by when. You must record the full name, job title, team and direct contact number of whoever you speak to.
12. Referrals must always be confirmed by encrypted email or recorded delivery within 24 hours.

13. Inform your line manager or lead as soon as possible on the same day of what has been agreed. You must record the date, time and summary of your discussion as well as all actions, decisions, and risk assessments in accordance with the Grief Encounter recording policy and procedure.
14. If you are worried that without emergency help the situation could cause immediate risk to the safety of the adult at risk you must contact the police immediately on 999

If you are not satisfied that the Adult Social Care team's response will adequately keep the adult safe from risk, you must inform your line manager or lead, as soon as possible on the same day. They will support you by making a representation from Grief Encounter.

The Line Manager or lead must also:

1. Make a record of all discussion/agreements and plans on the same date. The record must include the name, job title and team of the individual completing the record in accordance with the Grief Encounter recording policy.
2. If you disagree with the decision made by the Adult Social Care team, you must follow up your concerns in writing within 24 hours and inform your line manager or the Director of Clinical Services.

Responding to Safeguarding Allegations against an Adult: An Allegation about the Adults who work for or on behalf of Grief Encounter

This procedure is fully detailed in the children's safeguarding policy and procedures

Reporting of Serious Safeguarding Incidents

This procedure is fully detailed in the children's safeguarding policy and procedures

Specific Issues Related to Adult Safeguarding

What is Adult Abuse?

Abuse of adults can happen anywhere. There are many different types of abuse, those below are detailed in the Care and Support Statutory Guidance which include:

- **Physical** - for example, being hurt or harmed either deliberately or through rough, careless or thoughtless behavior.
- **Psychological and Emotional abuse** - for example being humiliated or put down or made to feel anxious or frightened. This may also include such things as isolation, verbal abuse and

- online bullying
- **Financial or Material abuse** - including theft - for example theft, fraud, scamming and coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions and property.
- **Neglect and Acts of Omission** - for example ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs. Failure to enable access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services. The withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating
- **Sexual abuse** - for example, sexual assault, sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting, rape, inappropriate looking or touching, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts.
- **Discrimination** - For example harassment, concerning race, sexual orientation, gender and gender identity, age, religion or abuse about a person's disability.
- **Domestic abuse** - examples include psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse or 'honour'-based violence.
- **Modern slavery** - includes slavery, human trafficking and forced labour.
- **Organisational abuse (institutional abuse)** - includes neglect and poor care within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home.
- **Self-neglect** - includes not caring for personal cleanliness, health or surroundings, and displaying behaviour such as hoarding

Additionally, abuse can also be present in the following circumstances:

- **Radicalisation**- for example, where someone vulnerable is actively radicalised to support terrorism and violent extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist activities. This can also involve other forms of abuse i.e. coercion, isolation, financial abuse etc.
- **Self-Harm** - is the act of deliberately causing harm to one's self. Whilst not directly a form of abuse by others, it can be seen as a form of self-neglect. Failure to respond to self-harm could also be considered to be a form of neglect/act of omission or organisational abuse.
- **Online-Abuse** - online can encompass a number of the forms of abuse described above, for example, psychological, sexual, financial and discriminatory abuse may be perpetrated online.

Domestic Violence and Abuse

Domestic abuse can be described as abuse that occurs between two people who are 'personally connected' such as being or having been in an intimate relationship, have parental relationship to the same child or they are relatives.

Domestic abuse can take many forms and can include:

- Physical abuse, violent or threatening behaviour
- Sexual abuse
- Controlling or coercive behaviour
- Harassment or Stalking
- Economic abuse
- Emotional or psychological abuse
- Verbal abuse

- Technology-facilitated abuse
- Abuse relating to faith
- 'Honour'-based abuse

During the course of Grief Encounter work it is likely that we will work in circumstances where there are differing levels of domestic abuse. This abuse may be disclosed by a child, young person or adult within the family, or it may be through observations that domestic abuse is identified.

Domestic abuse has a significant impact on children, including increased risks of harm to the child both directly and indirectly, for example by witnessing harm to a non-abusive parent.

If a child discloses domestic abuse to you it is important to remember that harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others and this is particularly relevant in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse. As such the needs of the child are paramount and practice should follow the procedures detailed in the Safeguarding Children's Policy and Procedure.

If an adult discloses domestic abuse to you or you have identified that domestic abuse has happened, you should make a request for a 'Safeguarding Huddle' to take place immediately on the same day for support to discuss possible actions and options available, with our clinical safeguarding leads and managers. You should do this by making direct, in person, contact with your line manager or Lead manager.

Where there is immediate risk of harm then the procedure detailed for safeguarding adults should be followed.

Other sources of information and support:

There are usually a range of organisations and resources available in local areas to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse. There are also a range of national helpings that can be used in order to receive support.

- *Women can call the National Domestic Abuse Helpline (Freephone)- Refuge - 0808 2000 247*
- *Men can call Men's Advice Line on 0808 8010 327 (Monday to Friday 10am to 8pm)*
- *If you identify as LGBT+ you can call Galop on 0800 999 5428 for emotional and practical support*
- *Anyone can call Karma Nirvana on 0800 5999 247 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) for forced marriage and honour crimes. You can also call 020 7008 0151 to speak to the GOV.UK Forced Marriage Unit*

Modern Day Slavery and Human Trafficking

Modern slavery is a crime and a violation of fundamental human rights. It takes various forms, such as slavery, servitude, forced and compulsory labour, and human trafficking, all of which include the deprivation of a person's liberty by another in order to exploit them for personal or commercial gain. Human trafficking may occur across borders or within different areas of a country.

Victims are:

- Exploited

- Controlled or held captive
- Threatened or punished to stop them escaping or reporting the crime

It can often involve elements of:

- Forced Labour - when victims are threatened or physically forced into working in someone's home or business. Often for long hours with little or no pay.
- Criminal Exploitation - where victims may be forced to commit crimes such as shoplifting, benefit fraud, work with illegal drugs.
- Sexual Exploitation - Victims are forced into sex work or to perform sexual acts against their wishes and without their consent.
- Organ Trafficking - Victims are moved from one place to another so they can have their body parts removed. These are then sold for surgical transplants.

Grief Encounter has a zero tolerance policy towards modern slavery and is committed to reducing the risks of modern slavery within our supply chains as well as ensuring that those working with Grief Encounter are aware and able to identify modern slavery.

Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple exploitations. Victims may not be aware that they are being trafficked or exploited, and may have consented to elements of their exploitation, or accepted their situation. Each situation can be very different and may not fit a typical view, such as people being forced to work in fields or fishing boats.

If you suspect modern slavery, report it to the [Modern Slavery Helpline](#) on 08000 121 700 or the police on 101. In an emergency always call 999.

Disclosures of Historical Abuse (Non-recent abuse)

During the course of Grief Encounter's work adults may disclose historical abuse (non-recent abuse). This is usually abuse that has happened to them as a child.

As soon as it is apparent that an adult is disclosing childhood abuse the member of staff must record what is said and the responses given by the staff member. A chronology should be recorded and all records must be dated and made clear.

Consideration must be given to the therapeutic needs of the adult and reassurance given that all reasonable efforts will be made to look into what they have reported. It is important when someone discloses historical abuse that:

- There is acknowledgment that it takes bravery to disclose past abuse
- That any abuse that happened to them is not their fault
- They are reassured and kept informed during the process

Following disclosure of historical abuse the procedure is the same as for all other disclosures of abuse and

you must consult with your line manager, other responsible manager as soon as possible on the same day, to agree the course of action. You must record the incident in detail within 24 hours of being made aware.

The Prevent Duty - Counter Terrorism & Security Act 2015

Radicalisation is comparable to other forms of exploitation and is therefore considered a safeguarding issue that all staff working for or on behalf of Grief Encounter must be aware of.

- The emphasis is upon supporting vulnerable children, young people, and adults.
- There is no expectation that Grief Encounter will take on a surveillance or enforcement role.
- Where a 'Prevent Concern' exists the duty promotes a multi-agency approach, where Grief Encounter will work within arrangements for Multi-Agency Safeguarding.
- **Extremism** is defined in the Prevent Strategy 2011 as vocal or active opposition to fundamental democratic values, including, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs
- **The Terrorism and Security Act 2015** defines terrorism as an act that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people and/or damage to property; or seriously interferes with or disrupts an electronic system
- **Radicalisation** is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and violent extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups. Radicalisation should be considered as an 'additional vulnerability' under Working Together 2018. There is no obvious profile of a person likely to become involved in extremism or a single indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas.
- **Indicators for vulnerability** to radicalisation can be similar to those for other forms of abuse and may particularly include: - Distance from cultural heritage- Experience of migration- Experience of racism and discrimination- Family members or friends associated with extremist groups - Family tensions- Sense of isolation and feelings of failure

It is important to note that not all individuals at risk of radicalisation and acts of terrorism are susceptible or vulnerable and they may be acting out of choice. **Staff or any person who works for or on behalf of Grief Encounter may have concerns as a result of:**

- A direct disclosure
- An observation
- An expression of concern or complaint made by another person

If you suspect that anyone is at immediate risk or actually engaged in the planning or implementing of an act of terrorism, take the following course of action immediately:

- Contact your line manager and consider referral to Police on 999, or
- Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321
- Inform Grief Encounter Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Information Sharing and Consent

Each individual's right to confidentiality must be respected. All personal data must be treated with care and kept securely; this means not disclosing it to others unless there is a legal reason to do so, and we have informed the subject that we will do this in the privacy notice, or we have the informed consent of the subject, or their parent or person with legal responsibility for them. Disclosing personal data to unauthorised people could place the subject at risk of harm and may be a breach of GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018.

There are circumstances when we may share personal data without the consent of the subject. The GDPR (article 6.1.d) permits the sharing of personal data without the consent of the data subject to safeguard the data subject, or others from harm. Safeguarding concerns must always be shared with the local authority and may be shared with the police if this is necessary to protect the data subject or others. The data subject, or their parent, should be informed that the data has been shared unless this would place the individuals concerned at further risk.

Under Schedule 2 of the Data Protection Act 2018, personal data may also be shared with the police without the consent of the subject in order to prevent, detect or prosecute a crime. As a voluntary organisation we are not obliged to share data with the police but may choose to do so. The request must be in writing and specify the data required and why this is needed. The responsible manager must weigh up the impact of not sharing the data against the duty of confidentiality that we owe the subject. If we decide not to share, the police must obtain a court order to access the data. All requests to share data must be recorded, including whether or not the data was shared and the reason/s for this.

GLOSSARY

Please see [Safeguarding Children's Policy and Procedure](#) for further glossary of terms relating to safeguarding.

10 Types of Abuse-

The [Care and support statutory guidance](#) identifies ten types of abuse for adults at risk. These are:

- Physical abuse
- Domestic violence or abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Modern slavery
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational or institutional abuse
- Neglect or acts of omission
- Self-neglect

See SCIE website for further details about types of abuse

<https://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/adults/introduction/types-and-indicators-of-abuse>

Adult at risk -

Vulnerable adult was the previous terminology used, which is now referred to as 'adults at risk' and includes adults who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- As a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.' (Care Act 2014, section 42)

The Care Act places a duty on local authorities and others to implement safeguarding for people who, because of issues such as dementia, learning disability, mental ill-health, brain injury (including stroke) or substance abuse, have care and support needs that may make them more vulnerable to abuse or neglect. This list is not exhaustive, but the safeguarding duty is particularly pertinent where a person may lack some mental capacity.

Mental Capacity Act (2005)-

Mental capacity is defined within the Mental Capacity Act (2005). The Act was designed to protect and empower people who may lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions about their care and treatment. It applies to people aged 16 and over.

Mental Capacity-

Relates to the ability to make decisions. Mental capacity is both decision and time specific, so someone may lack capacity for certain decisions and/or at certain times.

There are 5 key principles outlined in the Act which are:

1. Presumption of capacity
2. Support to make a decision
3. Ability to make unwise decisions
4. Best interest
5. Least restrictive

The last 2 principles only apply where someone has been assessed to not have the mental capacity for specific decisions.

It is important to assume that every adult has capacity to make decisions about their treatment, care and their life. It is only through an assessment of capacity that a decision can be made if the person lacks capacity around particular decisions. Someone has capacity if they can:

- understand information relevant to the decision in question
- retain that information
- use the information to make their decision
- communicate a decision

LADO-

Every local authority has a statutory responsibility to have a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) who is responsible for coordinating the response to concerns that an adult who works with children may have caused them or could cause them harm. The LADO duty does not apply to adults at risk though some areas do have adult LADO's who have a similar responsibility where there are concerns that an adult who works with adults at risks may have caused harm.

MARAC-

Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. The representatives discuss options for increasing the safety of the victim and turn these into a coordinated action plan. The primary focus of the MARAC is to safeguard the adult victim. The MARAC will also make links with others to safeguard children and manage the behaviour of the perpetrator. The victim does not attend the meeting but is represented by an IDVA who speaks on their behalf.

IDVA-

The main purpose of independent domestic violence advisors (IDVA) is to address the safety of victims at high risk of harm from intimate partners, ex-partners or family members to secure their safety and the safety of their children. Serving as a victim's primary point of contact, IDVAs normally work with their clients from the point of crisis to assess the level of risk, discuss the range of suitable options and develop safety plans.

MASH-

A Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) brings key professionals together to facilitate early, better quality information sharing, analysis and decision-making, to safeguard vulnerable children and young people more effectively. How the MASH works may vary from area to area and in some areas it may also include the safeguarding of adults at risk as well as children.

Statutory Guidance

A clear and consistent understanding of safeguarding concepts and terminology is essential to the work of Grief Encounter. Grief Encounter Safeguarding Adults Policy must be followed in line with:

- The Care Act (2014) and associated statutory guidance (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance#safeguarding-1>)
- Mental Capacity Act (2005) Including, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (2009) pertaining to care homes and hospitals.
- Domestic Abuse Act (2021)
- Modern Slavery Act (2015)
- The Serious Crimes Act (2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children & Young People (2018) statutory requirements

- Protection of Freedoms Act (2012)
- Local inter-agency procedures and local Safeguarding Adults Partnerships and protocols, including any protocols related to Domestic Abuse.
- Equalities Act 2010
- BACP Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions
- Code of Ethics | www.basw.co.uk

grief encounter

supporting bereaved children & young people

London Clinical Centre: Crystal House Daws Lane Mill Hill London NW7 4ST
Bristol Clinical Centre: 27 Lilymead Avenue Bristol BS4 2BY

020 8371 8455 • contact@griefencounter.org.uk • griefencounter.org.uk



GriefEncounter

Charity Number: 1175837