




Safeguarding Adults 

- All work which enables an adult who needs significant support to retain independence, wellbeing and choice **and** to access their human right to live a life that is free from abuse and neglect.
- Policy “No Secrets” 2000

Adult at risk



Vulnerable adults or adults at risk are those within this category who are unable to protect themselves from significant harm.

What makes a person vulnerable



- Lack of inclusion in protective social networks
- Dependency on others (who may misuse their position) for vital needs
- Lack of access to remedies for abuse and neglect
- Social acceptability of low standards for care and treatment
- Dynamics of power within institutional care settings

Abuse or harm



Abuse is

“a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by any other person or persons”

No Secrets 2000

Forms of abuse



Includes harm which is :

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional
- Financial

Or results from

- Discriminatory Abuse
- Institutional Abuse
- Neglect

Human Rights violations



Right to life

Freedom from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment

Right to liberty and security

Protection from discrimination

Risks which may be associated with secure environments



- Feedback from people who live here:
 - Living with other service users can be a source of anxiety and fear
 - A third of women in one study felt sexually threatened and vulnerable
 - Some service users wanted panic alarms
 - Service users thought staff used more physical interventions than staff did
 - The experience of being detained left people feeling angry, dejected and desperate

Risks



Nature of closed communities
Culture – how are things done around here, what is acceptable, what is not, how is the unacceptable dealt with
Vulnerability of the group to others/each other
Assumptions of others
Lack of access to specialist services

Mitigation



- Systems of careful person centred care planning and observation make people feel safer
- Harm can be prevented – safe recruitment, training, supervision, emotional support, root cause analysis, good leadership, whistle blowing arrangements
- Working with agencies in the community
- Complaints systems – how, who, when and what is done?
- Advocates and visitors
- Facilitated access to family or supporters
- Commissioner interest and involvement
- Scrutiny, external inspection from CQC, MHA commissioners, etc.

What about when abuse occurs?



- Internal safeguarding policies linked to the overarching local safeguarding adults board policy
- External alerts
- Partnership working
- External coordination

Safeguarding adults



Alert
Threshold
Referral
Strategy
Assessment
Protection plan
Review