

# London Safeguarding Adults Board London Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy, Practice Guidance and Procedures- Launch

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19<sup>th</sup> November 2025

# Revision and review

- Reinforces a single overarching approach across London for all agencies and partners
- Reflects 10 years of Care Act 2014 implementation and incorporates learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SARs)
- 5 pages shorter than the previous version and covers much more
- Core is unchanged; six safeguarding principles, Wellbeing principle, Making Safeguarding Personal, partnership working, risk management, defensible decision-making & duty of candour are all retained
- Updates terminology, guidance & appendices
- Structure refreshed with **new practice guidance and appendices** (pp.73-151)
- For practitioners across all agencies and organisations across London, not the public

# What has changed/ new themes

- Language and communication
- Organisational abuse and provider responsibilities section is radically different
- Cultural Competency
- Online Harm and use of Digital Tools
- Homelessness and multiple exclusion
- Carers
- Transitional Safeguarding
- Expanded Glossary & Acronyms
- Governance and procedures
- (and resources, examples of good practice .....



# Language & Communication - changes

- Eliminating ‘victim-blaming’ language
- Terminology impacts trust & trauma
- Inclusive, clear language (‘worker’ is used generically)



# Organisational Abuse & Provider Responsibilities

Strengthened and simplified provider support procedures (rather than provider 'concerns' processes)

Partnership and Greater commissioner oversight

Learning disability & autism host commissioner guidance



# Cultural Competency & Humility

- New appendix on cultural competency, humility & safety
- Understand cultural differences, biases
- Adapt safeguarding to cultural context
- Commitment to continuous learning



# Online Harm & Digital Tools

- New section on online harms
- Guidance on digital tools in safeguarding
- Balancing innovation & confidentiality



# Homelessness & Multiple Exclusion



Expanded appendix on homelessness



Recognition of stigma & hidden homelessness



Multiple exclusion homelessness as safeguarding concern



Borough-level checklists

# Carers & Transitional Safeguarding

- Updated guidance on young & unpaid carers
- Carers: both at risk and potential sources of risk
- Transitional Safeguarding – addressing the needs of young adults and the differences between child & adult safeguarding systems

# The Safeguarding Procedures

Stage	Description	Target Timescale
<b>1. Concern</b> - Pages 62-68	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Immediate Action:</b> by the person raising the concern in cases of emergency. Ensure the safety and wellbeing of the adult.</li> <li><b>Determine:</b> if all 3 of the s.42(1) criteria are met. Is there reasonable cause to suspect:           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The adult has needs for care and support; and</li> <li>The adult is experiencing or at risk of abuse and neglect; and</li> <li>As a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves from the abuse or neglect, or risk of it.</li> </ol> </li> <li><b>Respond to Partner Organisations:</b> provide feedback (see section 4.5).</li> </ol>	Same day
<b>2. Enquiry</b> - Risk Assessment pages 48-50 - Risk Management Plan pages 68-69	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Initial Conversation:</b> with the adult at risk or their representative to establish the facts and if any action is required. Ensure the safety and wellbeing of the adult.</li> <li><b>Plan the Enquiry:</b> assess the needs of the adult and actions to support and redress how these might be met.</li> <li><b>Complete the Enquiry:</b> and make decisions about further actions required.</li> <li><b>Respond to Partner Organisations:</b> provide feedback (see sections 4.5 and 4.11).</li> </ol>	<p>Same day linked to above</p> <p>5 working days from above</p> <p>20 working days from above</p> <p>5 working days from above</p>
<b>3. Devising and Implementing the Safeguarding Plan</b> - Ongoing monitoring (wherever required) is an essential part of safeguarding procedures pages 78-80	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Adult Safeguarding Plan:</b> decide how to ensure the future safety of the adult and how best to support the adult through any actions agreed.</li> <li><b>Follow up Actions:</b> who will be responsible for these; how these will be achieved; and by when linked to the risks. This should be agreed locally to reflect the level of risk and the individual circumstances.</li> <li><b>Respond to Partner Organisations:</b> provide feedback (see sections 4.5 and 4.11).</li> <li><b>Review of the Safeguarding Plan:</b> This is optional and should be decided locally based on the circumstances.</li> </ol>	<p>5 working days from enquiry report completion</p> <p>No more than 3 months from above</p> <p>Within 5 working days of conclusion</p> <p>To be decided locally</p>

**They fundamentally remain the same:**

- Change from 4 stages to 3.
- The closure stage is absorbed in each of the 3 previous stages.
- More specific guidance on what actions should always be taken if the procedures are closed at any of the stages.
- Target timescales are just that (guidelines) and not statutory expectations.
- Providing feedback to the referrer at each stage is vital – this is one of the most common criticisms of the use of the procedures and causes serious complications.
- Stage 3 has been re-worded to make this clearer and more distinct from the ‘planning the enquiry’ element (stage 2), which is separate to the actual ‘safeguarding plan’.
- ONGOING MONITORING** is crucial and is an integral part of the procedures.

# Governance & Procedures

- Safeguarding stages changed with 3 points of decision-making (Concern → Enquiry → Plan)
- Closure is now considered at any stage, with ongoing emphasis on monitoring and review
- Clarified roles & escalation routes
- Alignment with ‘Right Care, Right Person’
- Data Sharing agreement hasn’t been updated

# Next Steps

- Ongoing updates (living document) – new group to be set up – volunteers needed
- Training & dissemination plan – for local SABs to take forward
- Local SAB to monitor implementation & impact

Resources – London ADASS

[London Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy Practice Guidance and Procedures November 2025 \(003\).pdf](#)