

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

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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)
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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
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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
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The Safeguarding Procedures

Stage	Description	Target Timescale
1. Concern - Pages 62-68	1. Immediate Action: by the person raising the concern in cases of emergency. Ensure the safety and wellbeing of the adult. 2. Determine: if all 3 of the s.42(1) criteria are met. Is there reasonable cause to suspect: a) The adult has needs for care and support; and b) The adult is experiencing or at risk of abuse and neglect; and c) As a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves from the abuse or neglect, or risk of it. 3. Respond to Partner Organisations: provide feedback (see section 4.5).	Same day
2. Enquiry - Risk Assessment pages 48-50 - Risk Management Plan pages 68-69	1. Initial Conversation: 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. 2. Plan the Enquiry: assess the needs of the adult and actions to support and redress how these might be met. 3. Complete the Enquiry: and make decisions about further actions required. 4. Respond to Partner Organisations: provide feedback (see sections 4.5 and 4.11).	Same day linked to above 5 working days from above 20 working days from above 5 working days from above
3. Devising and Implementing the Safeguarding Plan - Ongoing monitoring (wherever required) is an essential part of safeguarding procedures pages 78-80	1. Adult Safeguarding Plan: decide how to ensure the future safety of the adult and how best to support the adult through any actions agreed. 2. Follow up Actions: 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. 3. Respond to Partner Organisations: provide feedback (see sections 4.5 and 4.11). 4. Review of the Safeguarding Plan: This is optional and should be decided locally based on the circumstances.	5 working days from enquiry report completion No more than 3 months from above Within 5 working days of conclusion To be decided locally

They fundamentally remain the same:

- i. Change from 4 stages to 3.
- ii. The closure stage is absorbed in each of the 3 previous stages.
- iii. More specific guidance on what actions should always be taken if the procedures are closed at any of the stages.
- iv. Target timescales are just that (guidelines) and not statutory expectations.
- v. 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.
- vi. 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’.
- vii. **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
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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](#)