

Welcome!



Safeguarding in Practice



Poll – how confident are you?

Join at menti.com | use code 1370 2609



Aims of the training

- Know what to do if you think a child or vulnerable adult is at risk
- Increase/consolidate your knowledge about the forum safeguarding reporting process
- Increase your confidence in how to deal with safeguarding concerns



Safeguarding statement

At Contact we take safeguarding very seriously and believe that protecting people from harm is everyone's responsibility.

Contact is committed to promoting the welfare and wellbeing of children and adults, protecting them from abuse or neglect, whether they are receiving services from us, our Contact staff and volunteers, or anyone else we meet through our work.

Contact believes that all children and young people and vulnerable adults deserve to live happy, safe, and secure lives, and should be protected from abuse, harm, or neglect. We have a responsibility to promote the welfare of all children and young people and vulnerable adults to keep them safe. We are committed to practice in a way that protects and safeguards children, young people and vulnerable adults.

Read public statement on our website: <https://contact.org.uk/about-contact/safeguarding/>



Safeguarding policies/procedures

- Safeguarding children policies
- Safeguarding adults at risk policies

What should they cover?

- Definitions of abuse
- Other useful policies to use in conjunction
- Good practice on recruitment, induction and ongoing support
- Guidance on allegations against a member of staff
- Role of the safeguarding review team



Safeguarding adults at risk

A vulnerable adult has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority meets any of those needs), and are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, and as a result of those care and support needs are unable to protect themselves from the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect.

From aged 18 (16 in Scotland) - the following conditions can indicate vulnerability:

- mental health problems (including dementia)
- physical disability
- drug and alcohol related problems
- sensory impairment
- learning disability
- physical illness
- acquired brain injury
- frail and/or is experiencing a temporary illness





Adults at risk

Remember:

Parent carers are not automatically vulnerable adults.

A vulnerable adult has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority meets any of those needs), and are experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, **and as a result of those care and support needs are unable to protect themselves from the risk of, or the experience of, abuse or neglect, or risk of it.**

It is good practice to discuss any concerns you have with the adult at risk unless you think that doing so would put them or anyone else at greater risk.

Ideally you should seek their consent before making a referral, but **it is not a requirement.**



Forum Process for Safeguarding Children and Adults at Risk

Forums must follow their individual policies and procedures – the below is a suggested guide.

- A member of staff or forum volunteer has a concern about a child or adult at risk and their welfare.
- forums with a host organisation may be covered under the hosts safeguarding policy and the designated safeguarding lead maybe someone from the host organisation.
- They contact their manager or forum Safeguarding lead within 24 hours
- The staff member creates a record of the concern with as much factual information as possible.
- The staff member/volunteer and their manager/ Safeguarding lead discuss the concern together
- If the line manager/safeguarding lead is not available, contact another forum officer or your Parent Participation Adviser.
- If the parent participation advisor needs additional support they can get in touch with the Designated Safeguarding Officers at Contact.
- Contact can support parent participation advisers but they **cannot** make a decision or referral on behalf of a forum.



Decision making



- Forum Safeguarding leads should work with the team member to decide on a course of action. This might be:
 - No further action needed besides a written record on the safeguarding incident form.
 - Seeking advice on what to do next/ appropriateness of seeking further information from the Parent Participation Advisor.
 - Seeking further information about the situation, for example from the parent.
 - Seeking guidance from the local MASH (Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub) or equivalent in nations.
 - Contact the local authority to request an Early Help Assessment (or nation equivalent) / inform them there's a child in need.
 - Talk to the family about asking the Local Authority for a needs assessment and/or signpost them to sources of support.
 - Contact the local authority and make safeguarding referral.
 - Contact the police if immediate risk of significant harm.



If you decide someone is at risk



If a decision is made that a child or vulnerable adult is at risk of significant harm, or if there is a concern for their welfare:

- The forum safeguarding lead will usually report the concern to the local authority children's services or adults' services team, using the procedures for the local authority area. Most local authorities will want you to complete their own form or online portal to raise a concern.
- The DSO may report a concern if the forum safeguarding lead is not able to do so. This will be agreed between the manager and DSO team.



Questions?



Record Keeping

Whatever action is taken, or not taken, the forum safeguarding lead must ensure there is a completed written record of the incident and what steps were taken.

This must be kept confidentially and separate from any other information held by the forum regarding the individuals involved. If you use a CRM then we would recommend **not** annotating someone's file with safeguarding referral notes.



Immediate risk of harm

- If you think a child or vulnerable adult is in immediate danger do not delay, call 999.
- Speak to your forum safeguarding lead or a DSO as soon as possible after calling 999.
- Complete the forums safeguarding incident form.



Safeguarding – Be Alert

You could come across a safeguarding concern in the most unusual and expected places.

- Surveys and questionnaires
- Booking forms or webforms
- Infrequently monitored mailboxes
- Responses to newsletters or NOREPLY emails
- Donation forms
- From families and people outside of the UK

Remember:

- Don't assume someone else has or will deal with it
- If you see it, it is your responsibility to follow it through and alert the DSO



Case Studies – Questions for discussion

- Is this a safeguarding issue?
- What are your concerns?
- What action would you take, if any?



Case Study 7

You are talking to a parent and their teenage son who discloses that he has considered ending his life in recent weeks due to the severe depression and anxiety he has been experiencing.



Case study 1

A Mum you previously met at an event, contacts you by telephone. She tells you she is exhausted. She says that it's due to the behaviour of her 15 year old son P. P has learning difficulties and his behaviour is very challenging. P is violent to mum and his younger siblings. Mum tells you she has 2 other children at home and is worried about them due to P's behaviour. As she speaks she is distressed and tells you nothing is being done.



Case Study 4

You are facilitating a workshop about behaviour. During the workshop, a parent discloses to the group that she keeps her 13-year-old daughter who has autism, learning difficulties, and is non-speaking safe at night - by not allowing her out of the bedroom. She says that she ties her to the bed to prevent damaging things in her bedroom, and leaving the house. She says the tie that she uses is a soft material and it allows her to walk around the room but prevents them from leaving the bedroom. She says that since she introduced this system, she has been able to sleep better as she knows her daughter is safe.



Case Study 6

You have recently run an online feedback questionnaire via survey monkey. You are looking through the entries a month or so later, and in one of them, a respondent has written, in an 'any other comments' text box, "my dad is abusing me". You have the respondent's name, full address and email address. You don't have any other personal information.



Session Poll



CIC Wellbeing Service

An employee assistance programme which offers a range of support, including counselling sessions if needed.

0800 085 1376 or +44 (0)20 7938 0963

Website: assist@cicwellbeing.com

Username: Contact

Password: Wellbeing



Any Questions?



Thank you for taking safeguarding seriously
and undertaking this training.

Remember Safeguarding is everyone's
responsibility.



About Contact

We are Contact, the UK charity for families with disabled children.

- We support families with the best possible guidance and information
- We bring families together to support each other
- And we help families to campaign, volunteer and fundraise to improve life for themselves and others



Photo of mother with son



Services and support on the Contact website

Contact's website (contact.org.uk) provides advice and information about any concern a parent might have about raising a child or young person with additional needs – from diagnosis, childcare and benefits through to service entitlements, healthcare and support at school or college.

Have a browse through our:

- [A-Z medical directory](#)
- [Benefits Calculator](#) and [Grants Search](#)
- [Listening Ear support service](#)
- [Family workshops and events](#)
- [Helpline](#) (0808 808 3555)
- [Frequently Asked Questions tool](#)
- [Parent carer participation](#)
- [Campaigns and research](#)



Contact's online communities

- [Facebook](#)
 - [Facebook group for families](#)
 - [X \(Twitter\)](#)
 - [LinkedIn](#)
 - [YouTube](#)
 - [Instagram](#)
 - [Podcasts](#)
 - [What's New newsletter](#)
-
- [Contact Scotland – Facebook](#)
 - [Contact Wales – Facebook](#)
 - [HemiHelp – Facebook](#)
 - [HemiHelp – X \(Twitter\)](#)
 - [Fledglings – Facebook](#)
 - [Fledglings – X \(Twitter\)](#)
 - [Fledglings – Instagram](#)



Photo of Contact families playing tug of war

