

Appendix 1

Introduction to Adult Safeguarding – Key Terminology

Adult at risk	A person aged 18 years or over who is in need of care and support (whether or not those needs are being met), who is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect, and because of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.
Adult safeguarding	Protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
Adult safeguarding lead	The title given to the member of staff in an organisation who is given the lead for Safeguarding Adults.
Advocacy	Supporting a person to understand information, express their needs and wishes, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain the care and support they need.
Best Interest	The Mental Capacity Act 2005 (MCA) states that if a person lacks mental capacity to make a particular decision, then whoever is making that decision or taking any action on that person's behalf must do so in the person's best interest. This is one of the principles of the MCA.
Commissioning	The cyclical activity, to assess the needs of local populations for care and support services, determining what element of this needs to be arranged by the respective organisations, then designing, delivering, monitoring and evaluating those services.
Concern	Describes when there is or might be an incident of abuse or neglect.
Enquiry	Establishes whether any action needs to be taken to stop or prevent abuse or neglect, and if so, what action and by whom the action is taken.
Enquiry Officer	The member of staff who undertakes and co-ordinates the actions under Section 42 (Care Act 2015) enquiries.
Enquiry Lead	The agency that leads the enquiry described above. Where the abuse/neglect takes place in another local authority area, the host local authority will undertake this role, e.g., if the adult at risk is in a care home.
Safeguarding Adult Manager (SAM)	The person who manages, makes decisions, provides guidance, and has oversight of safeguarding concerns that are raised to the local authority.

Adapted from the London Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy and Procedures.