

## Introduction

This policy sets out a multi-disciplinary framework in accordance with the Department of Health publication "*No Secrets: Guidance on developing and implementing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse*" (March 2000). This guidance builds on the Government's respect for human rights and results from its firm intention to close a significant gap in the delivery of those rights alongside the coming into force of the Human Rights Act 1998.

In addition, we now have 'Safeguarding Adults' published by the Association of Directors of Social Services (ADSS) in October 2005. This introduces 11 standards for all authorities and partner agencies to aspire to in terms of best practice. It also changes some of the language, hence the new policy title of 'Safeguarding Adults'. Whilst we are getting used to the new language you may still see reference to Adult Protection. Safeguarding Adults and Adult Protection may be taken to describe the same process. In time, we will only use 'Safeguarding Adults'.

- This policy describes how organisations should respond if abuse is identified or disclosed.
- All agencies must take account of the fact that abuse of vulnerable adults does occur. It is essential that the response to all allegations must be in line with this policy and guidance.
- This policy was reviewed in August 2006 and will be reviewed again in August 2008. Matters of fact will be updated as changes occur e.g. the title of an organisation or a change in law.
- It will be published on the Adult Protection part of Devon County Council's and Torbay Care Trust's website and will be continuously updated.
- The multi agency safeguarding adults from abuse policy is coordinated by Adult and Community Services in Devon and the Care Trust in Torbay.