

# 1. Policy Framework

## 1.1 Context

The Department of Health and Home Office issued the publication *"No Secrets: Guidance on developing multi-agency policies and procedures to protect vulnerable adults from abuse"* in March 2000.

This policy document adheres to the content of *"No Secrets"* and is working towards achieving the 11 standards set out in the ADSS document 'Safeguarding Adults'

## 1.2 Aims

- To provide a framework for statutory agencies and those in the private and voluntary sectors to work together preventatively and in partnership in order to improve and modernise the quality of service delivery to vulnerable adults, their carers and local communities. (See *"No Secrets"* - Section 1.3)
- To provide guidance to local agencies who have a responsibility to investigate and take action when a vulnerable adult is believed to be suffering abuse. (See *"No Secrets"* - Section 1.5)
- The primary aim for all agencies shall be to prevent abuse. Where preventative strategies fail, agencies should ensure that robust procedures are in place for dealing with incidents of abuse. (See *"No Secrets"* - Section 1.2 and Health and Local Authority Circulars HSC 2000/07: LAC [2000] 7, and 'Safeguarding Adults, ADSS October 2006

## 1.3 Objectives

- To work in a preventative manner to protect vulnerable adults from being abused.
- To respond sensitively and coherently to reported incidents of self-neglect and abuse in a consistent manner, in accordance with this policy.
- To co-ordinate action and services in order to best protect and assist vulnerable adults.
- To ensure the safety of vulnerable adults by integrating strategies, policies and services relevant to abuse within the framework of all relevant legislation.
- To ensure that adults identified as vulnerable have a right to confidentiality. In so far as it is consistent with this right, all agencies should seek to share information to ensure the safety and well being of those individuals.

## 1.4 Standards: 'Safeguarding Adults' (ADSS October 2005)

These are good practice standards. The authors of 'Safeguarding Adults' believe the implementation of these standards in every local area will lead to the development of consistent, high quality adult protection work across the country.

They will be used locally to form the basis of an annual audit for each partner organisation and will form the core of the Safeguarding Board's business plan.

#### Standard 1

Each local authority has established a multi agency Board to lead 'Safeguarding Adults' work

#### Standard 2

Accountability for and ownership of 'Safeguarding Adults' work is recognised by each partner organisation's executive body.

#### Standard 3

The 'Safeguarding Adults' policy includes a clear statement of every person's right to live a life free from abuse and neglect, and this message is actively promoted to the public by the Local Strategic Partnership, the 'Safeguarding Adults' Board, and its member organisations.

#### Standard 4

Each partner agency has a clear, well publicised policy of Zero Tolerance of abuse within the organisation.

#### Standard 5

The 'Safeguarding Adults' Board oversees a multi agency workforce development/training sub-group. The Board has a workforce development/training strategy and ensures that it is appropriately resourced.

#### Standard 6

All citizens can access information about how to gain safety from abuse and violence, including information about the local 'Safeguarding Adults' procedures.

#### Standard 7

There is a local multi agency 'Safeguarding Adults' policy and procedure describing the framework for responding to all adults 'who is or may be eligible for community care services' **and** who may be at risk of abuse or neglect.

#### Standard 8

Each partner agency has a set of internal guidelines, consistent with the local multi agency 'Safeguarding Adults' policy and procedures, which set out the responsibilities of all workers to operate within it.

#### Standard 9

The multi agency 'Safeguarding Adults' procedures detail the following stages: Alert, Referral, Decision, Safeguarding assessment strategy, Safeguarding assessment, Safeguarding plan, Review, Recording and Monitoring.

#### Standard 10

The safeguarding procedures are accessible to all adults covered by the policy.

#### Standard 11

The Board explicitly includes service users as key partners in all aspects of the work. This includes building service user participation into it's: membership, monitoring, development and implementation of its work; training strategy and planning and implementation of their individual safeguarding assessment and plans.

'Safeguarding Adults: A National Framework of Standards for good practice and outcomes in adult protection work, can be found on the Adult Protection website. ([www.devon.gov.uk/adult-prot](http://www.devon.gov.uk/adult-prot))