

Who is a Vulnerable Adult?

The definition in 'No Secrets' (March 2000) describes a vulnerable adult as being someone who is aged 18 or over and "who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability; age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation".

'Safeguarding Adults' (ADSS October 2005) proposes that we need to ensure protection procedures are inclusive and enable any adult to receive an appropriate response. For those not fitting the criteria of a vulnerable adult as defined above, it will normally be possible to direct them to another organisation or agency that will be able to offer advice and/or support.

The new language of 'Safeguarding Adults' has been adopted in this and other guidance and publicity.