

Working with:

The Police

The early involvement of the police may have benefits, in particular:

- It will help ensure that evidence is not lost or contaminated
- Early referral or consultation with the police will enable them to establish whether a criminal act has been committed and this will give them the opportunity of determining if and at what stage, they need to become involved
- A higher standard of proof is required in criminal proceedings than in disciplinary or regulatory proceedings (where the test is the balance of probability)
- Police officers have considerable skill in investigating and interviewing and their early involvement may prevent the abused adult being interviewed unnecessarily on subsequent occasions
- Police investigations should proceed alongside those dealing with health and social care issues
- In addition, the Police can provide information to vulnerable people to help them to protect themselves

The Care Quality Commission (CQC)

The Care Quality Commission will:

- Ensure inspection reports are available on their website: **www.CQC.org.uk**
- Inform Social Services when information is received that one or more service users may be or are at risk of abuse or neglect within registered establishments or their own homes
- Work jointly with other agencies where service users require a response under these procedures
- Attend Strategy meetings in respect of regulated services
- Keep other agencies informed of any relevant enforcement action taken by the Commission on any regulated service
- Where a potential breach of Regulation(s) has occurred, undertake appropriate inspection activity
- Pursue statutory action where appropriate

The Coroner

- All sudden and/or suspicious deaths will be reported to the coroner
- It is the duty of every citizen to share information with the Coroner if they believe it is relevant
- Any health or social care worker involved in a safeguarding adults investigation whereby a vulnerable adult dies or has died, has a duty to share information from the investigation with the Coroner. This should be agreed through the Chair of the Safeguarding meetings, or with the responsible manager for their agency.
- If the Coroner or a coroner's officer is the first to raise a possible safeguarding adults concern, they will contact the relevant Adult and Community Services Team by phoning Care Direct (0845 1551 007) and request a safeguarding adults investigation.

Supporting people

- 'Supporting People' is a housing support initiative that contracts with landlords and service providers for housing related support services. It covers every adult client group in addition to other vulnerable groups not necessarily in receipt of any other community care service.
- The supporting people team monitor the contracts against the quality standards, one of which is specific to abuse of vulnerable adults. The team may become aware of safeguarding adults issues through their routine monitoring or through health and social care colleagues.
- In the event of a safeguarding adults alert, the supporting people team should be invited to attend a safeguarding adults strategy meeting, and should be copied in to the minutes and decisions.
- The direct care provider would not normally be invited to the first strategy meeting unless there is good reason to do so. This is because they may be the alleged abuser or be close to that person, or have failed to address previous complaints.

South West Adult Placement Scheme (SWAPS)

- SWAPS is registered with the Care Quality Commission. It is an umbrella organisation which recruits and monitors people to look after adults in their own homes.
- The recruitment procedures include an enhanced CRB (Criminal Records Bureau) check for the main carer, training and ongoing monitoring and support.
- As with Supporting People, any safeguarding adults alert made to health or social services should lead to a SWAPS representative being invited to contribute to the information gathering stage and to any strategy meeting that is held. Again, it is not usual to invite the direct care provider to the first strategy meeting for the reasons given above.