



“Safeguarding Adults – Working to Keep People Safe”

A protocol for joint working agreed between Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) and the Redbridge Safeguarding Children Partnership (RSCP)

Introduction

1. Any professional working primarily with children and young people also has a responsibility in relation to safeguarding any adults within the household, such as parents, carers, extended family members or others living in the family home who have care or support needs, are experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect; or are unable to protect themselves because of their care and support needs. This will include adults with physical disability, mental health, alcohol or substance misuse, or a learning disability, and carers at risk.
2. This Protocol has been agreed by the Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) and the Safeguarding Children Partnership (SCP) to ensure that professionals who work primarily with children and young people understand and deliver on their responsibilities in relation to the protection of adults at risk (as defined above) within those households.
3. The SAB and SCP recognise that professionals who work primarily with adults have equivalent responsibilities in relation to the protection of children and this is the subject of a separate but complementary joint protocol, “Safeguarding children is everybody’s business”.

The Principles

4. Adult safeguarding is the process of protecting adults with care and support needs from abuse or neglect. All agencies engaged in work with children and young people – including those in need, with disabilities, in need of protection, or looked after, endorse the following principles in relation to adult safeguarding and will take any necessary action to ensure that they are implemented.

All professionals working with children at risk or in need will ensure that:

- They gather and record information at first contact about the presence of adults at risk in the household with the appearance of need in relation to care, support, risk of abuse or neglect.
- They give explicit and recorded consideration to the welfare adults at risk in the household and whether there is any cause to refer to adult social care for further investigation, assessment or support.
- If concerns are identified, a safeguarding alert should be made to the London Borough of Redbridge Health and Adult Social Services on 020 8708 7333 (Monday to Friday, 09:00 – 17:00) or 020 8554 5000 (evenings, weekends or public holidays) or via e-mail to adults.alert@redbridge.gov.uk or by completion of an [on-line referral form](#). Any concerns that may relate to a crime should be reported to the Police on 101 and in an emergency call 999.
- They share information which may be relevant to safeguarding of adults at risk fully and without delay with adult social care and respond promptly to requests for such information.

- They will contribute, as appropriate, to joint risk assessments which ensure clear and sufficient information about cases and joint plans for individual interventions.
- They will participate in and provide any requested reports to Strategy Meetings, as appropriate.
- They will familiarise themselves with the principles of safeguarding adults ([Appendix A](#)) and the policy and procedures for safeguarding adults at risk in Redbridge – [LBR Safeguarding Adults Local Protocol \(June 2023\)](#).
- Attend training (provided within LB Redbridge via the People Directorate [Learning & Development Service](#)) that raises awareness of safeguarding adults issues and equips them with the basic knowledge and skills that are required to be able to recognise and respond to need appropriately.
- Raise any professional disagreements relating to the safeguarding of an adult via use of the [RSAB Multi-Agency Escalation and Resolution Policy](#).
- Report any concerns that an adult who works with children, who may have additional care and support needs themselves)
 - has behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
 - possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child;
 - or behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children

they will ensure that the [Local Authority Designated Officer \(LADO\)](#), based in Children’s Services, is informed. It is the LADO’s role to ensure that relevant allegations are appropriately managed and monitored, with any necessary strategy discussion, action or intervention until such time as the matter has reached an outcome.

Agency responsibilities

5. It is the responsibility of individual employing and commissioning agencies to ensure that all relevant staff are familiar with and abide by this protocol.
6. The SAB will facilitate where required agencies engaged in work with adults who are vulnerable or at risk. It is the responsibility of statutory agencies to ensure that their staff have the training and skills required to fulfil this aspect of their role.
7. The SAB offers a multi-agency training programme. All courses are open to staff from statutory, private and voluntary agencies working with adults who are vulnerable or at risk.

Useful Links

- Protecting adults at risk of abuse or neglect – [Redbridge support and help for adults – Report adult abuse](#)
- [Care Act 2014](#)
- London Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Policy & Procedures – under review (March 2025) – publication due in June 2025
- [Redbridge Safeguarding Adults Board \(RSAB\)](#)
- Social Care Institute for Excellent (SCIE) – [Safeguarding Adults e-learning course](#)

General Guidance - Abuse of Adults

Everyone has a right to feel safe and to live without fear of abuse, neglect or exploitation. Redbridge Health and Adult Social Services and partner organisations work together to make life safer for adults who are most at risk of being harmed.

An adult at risk is someone 18 or over who may be in need of care and support because of a disability or illness, experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect and as a result unable to protect themselves. Adults have a general right to independence, choice and self-determination including control over information about themselves. In the context of adult safeguarding, these rights can be overridden in certain circumstances. These would include emergency or life-threatening situations, where an adult is at risk of significant harm, and information can be shared without consent. For further information see the [Social Care Institute for Excellence \(SCIE\) guidance on information sharing](#).

Abuse is something done to another person that harms them in some way. In relation to adults, this can be:

- **Physical** - hitting, pushing, shaking, over-medicating
- **Domestic violence** - psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional, 'honour' based violence
- **Sexual** - rape and sexual assault that a person does not want or understand
- **Psychological** - shouting, swearing or threats
- **Financial or material** - theft, fraud, internet scamming
- **Modern slavery** - slavery, human trafficking, forced labour
- **Discriminatory** - racist, sexist abuse or abuse based on a person's age, disability, gender, religion
- **Organisational** e.g. neglect and poor care within an institution or care setting
- **Neglect and acts of omission** e.g. not providing food, drink, or medical care
- **Self-neglect** - neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings

Abuse can happen to anyone, and the abuser can be someone known to the victim or a stranger. It can happen anywhere - in someone's home, a care home or a hospital.

The [Care Act 2014](#) provides the legal framework for local authorities to work with partners to protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect. The six principles underpinning safeguarding adults are:

- **Empowerment** - presumption of person led decisions and informed consent.
- **Prevention** - it is better to act before harm occurs.
- **Proportionality** - proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
- **Protection** - support and representation for those in greatest need.
- **Partnerships** - local solutions through services working with their communities.
- **Accountability** - accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

These are all carried out within the ethos of Making Safeguarding Personal (MSP) – a 'person centred' approach ([SCIE – MSP](#)).

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