

**HALTON
SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS
BOARD**



Multi Agency Guidance on Prevention & Early Intervention in Adult Safeguarding

February 2026

Policy, Performance and Customer Care Team

Adult Social Care Adults Directorate

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Policy Summary

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Author	Katy Rushworth, Safeguarding & Dignity Officer
Contributors	Helen Moir, Head of Service Independent Living Steve Westhead, Head of Service Safeguarding, Quality & Mental Health
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<p><i>If you require this policy or any associated documents in another format (e.g. other languages, easy-read or any other format), please email details of your requirements to: ascservicedevelopment@halton.gov.uk.</i></p>	

Halton Safeguarding Adults Board would like to acknowledge the use of Cheshire West and Cheshire Local Safeguarding Adults Board Multi Agency Guidance on Prevention & Early Intervention in Adult Safeguarding in producing this document.

1. Introduction

Critical to the vision in the Care Act 2014 is that the care and support system works to actively promote wellbeing and independence and does not just wait to respond when people reach a crisis point. It is vital that the care and support system intervenes early to support individuals, helps people retain or regain their skills and confidence, and prevents need or delays deterioration wherever possible. This approach applies equally to adult safeguarding.

The Care Act 2014 places a duty on Local Safeguarding Adults Boards to develop and implement a clear strategy around the prevention of abuse or neglect of adults at risk. Prevention is one of the core principles of safeguarding and as such forms a fundamental part of local adult safeguarding policy framework and arrangements. The Safeguarding Adults Board will have an overview of the prevention work taking place in its area and will maintain links with other strategic forums and plans to ensure this work ties in with their work. These include links with the Health and Wellbeing Board, Safeguarding Children's Partnership, Community Safety Partnership and the Domestic Abuse Board, Police and Crime Commissioner's Office and the Care Quality Commission.

This guidance recognises that there are several building blocks for prevention and early intervention, including:

- ❖ A well-trained workforce operating in a culture of zero tolerance of abuse
- ❖ People being informed of their rights to be free from abuse and supported to exercise these rights, including access to advocacy
- ❖ A sound framework for confidentiality and information sharing across agencies
- ❖ Access to good universal services, such as community safety services
- ❖ Needs and risk assessments to inform people's choices
- ❖ Safeguarding to achieve a balance between protecting people and preserving their right to make decisions for themselves
- ❖ Availability of a range of options for tailored support to keep people safe from abuse
- ❖ An informed public that is aware of the issues to ensure the success and effectiveness of the guidance

This guidance has been agreed by Halton Safeguarding Adults Board and provides an overarching framework for the prevention and early intervention in safeguarding. Member organisations are invited to use this framework to inform the development of local plans and guidance to support this work.

2. Key Messages

The following principles and key messages underpin this guidance:

- ❖ Prevention in safeguarding should be broadly defined and should include all health and social care user groups and service settings
- ❖ Prevention needs to take place in the context of person-centred support and personalisation, with individuals empowered to make choices and supported to manage risks
- ❖ Safeguarding monitoring data and other intelligence should be used to identify people, groups or localities most at risk to target preventative work
- ❖ Any not yet reached groups should be identified and strategies put in place to raise awareness and improve reporting amongst these groups and communities
- ❖ Implementation and extension of the personalisation agenda and direct payments has highlighted the need for agencies to work preventatively to ensure service users are supported to protect themselves and make informed decisions about action when experiencing or likely to experience abuse, neglect or exploitation
- ❖ Service users and their families, friends and carers should be actively encouraged to participate in developing solutions to challenges they may be facing. “Co-Production” and a collaborative strength-based practice is an approach which enables the individual to influence the support and services they receive (or when groups of people get together to influence the way services are designed, commissioned and delivered). This approach contributes to developing the resilience of individuals and helps to promote self-reliance and independence
- ❖ Effective prevention requires good partnership working and a multi-disciplinary approach adopted within and across local services
- ❖ Robust risk management (undertaken within the context of positive risk taking) is an important tool in effective prevention and early intervention
- ❖ Safeguarding training strategies and programmes should address prevention and early intervention and include as core skills Making Safeguarding Personal, risk enablement, risk management, community safety, legal powers and remedies. Staff will access such training as relevant to their role
- ❖ Organisations will create a robust arrangement for professional supervision and create a reflective learning culture, where organisations can identify and implement learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews

3. Activities to promote prevention in safeguarding

Local services are encouraged to undertake a range of activities aimed at promoting general wellbeing and maintaining independence as a means of eliminating or reducing the service user's vulnerability to potential exploitation, abuse or neglect.

4. General activities to promote wellbeing

General activities to promote wellbeing may include:

- ❖ Providing universal access to good quality information
- ❖ Supporting safer neighbourhoods
- ❖ Actively addressing hate crime or anti-social behaviour
- ❖ Promoting health and active lifestyles
- ❖ Reducing loneliness or isolation, such as via befriending schemes or community activities
- ❖ Encouraging early discussions in families/groups about potential future changes
- ❖ Having conversations about care arrangements if a family member becomes ill or disabled

5. Specific activities to prevent exploitation, abuse or neglect

Specific activities to prevent exploitation, abuse or neglect may include:

- ❖ Identifying vulnerability factors and potential risks as part of the needs assessment and addressing these as part of the support planning process
- ❖ Using support plans to reduce loneliness or isolation and helping the person to strengthen or build their social and support networks
- ❖ Using accessible ways and support to help people understand the different types of abuse and its prevention including what to look out for and the steps to take if abuse is suspected
- ❖ Providing people with information about sources of independent information, advice and advocacy
- ❖ Promote effective decision making and compliance with the Mental Capacity Act
- ❖ Ensure safe pathways between service settings, including Hospital Discharge arrangements
- ❖ Promote effective Transitional Safeguarding Practice based on Best Practice Principles
- ❖ Providing people with information about the role of the Court of Protection and Office of the Public Guardian as well as the mechanisms available (e.g. power of attorney, deputyship, Department of Work and Pensions appointee-ship) to ensure their best interests are protected and to safeguard against financial

exploitation if they lose their capacity to make welfare and/or property and financial decisions in the future

- ❖ Reinforcing through literature and day to day interactions with service users that everyone has the right to be free from abuse and ensuring where someone needs support in exercising this right, they can access appropriate support, including advocacy services
- ❖ Providing training and education of service users on exploitation and abuse to help them to recognise this and to have the interpersonal skills necessary to deal with the situation should this occur
- ❖ Developing and promoting a range of “Keeping Safe” initiatives e.g. Mail and Telephone Preference Services, Safer Places, Buy with Confidence, Making Money Matter, No Cold Calling Zones, Mate Crime Awareness, SCAM Awareness initiatives, Neighbourhood Watch, Dementia Friendly Communities
- ❖ Ensuring there are effective links between local adult safeguarding arrangements and government strategies on PREVENT, Modern Slavery, Domestic Abuse, Combatting Drugs and the Serious Violence Duty
- ❖ Monitoring adults for the risk of exploitation and radicalisation given that current research has highlighted that criminal exploitation and radicalisers are increasingly targeting people with a learning disability, autism or other vulnerabilities
- ❖ Ensuring people are safe in whatever setting they live and that they are protected by the crime prevention measures aimed at the whole community and that they can access mainstream criminal justice and victim support services. This requires effective links between adult safeguarding arrangements and the full range of community safety services and resources
- ❖ Providing a consistent and swift response when triaging safeguarding concerns
- ❖ Ensuring a process for spotting safeguarding themes and trends enabling proportionate and timely responses to individual or organisational safeguarding concerns
- ❖ Supporting carers by offering a needs or carers assessment and use this as an opportunity to explore the individual’s circumstances and consider whether it would be possible to provide information or support that prevents abuse or neglect from occurring, for example, by providing training to the carer about the condition that the adult they care for has or to support them to care more safely
- ❖ Recognition that abuse or neglect may be unintentional and may arise because a carer is struggling to care for another person. This makes the need to act no less important, but in such circumstances, an appropriate response could be a carer assessment and support package for the carer and monitoring

- ❖ Conversely, identify when Domestic Abuse is occurring, signpost to local Domestic Abuse Services and utilise Multi-Agency Partnerships to create risk management plans
- ❖ Work collaboratively with Criminal Justice Agencies to disrupt criminal activity and hold perpetrators to account
- ❖ Create bespoke “Days to Action” to raise awareness about adult abuse and/or community safety and seek feedback from Halton residents
- ❖ Ensuring the person can access support and services to help them recover from the abuse and neglect they have experienced. This approach will also help build future resilience

6. Activities to ensure Safer Recruitment in Organisations

Statutory and Voluntary organisations need to be committed to creating a setting in which everyone feels welcome and safe. All organisations have an obligation to demonstrate best recruitment practices when working with Adults at Risk, which will include:

- ❖ Detailed application forms
- ❖ Robust interviews that cover safeguarding, equality, diversity, knowledge and skill
- ❖ Reference checks
- ❖ Thorough induction
- ❖ Verification of qualifications and experience
- ❖ Risk assessments
- ❖ DBS Checks for individuals in a Regulated Activity Role and Safeguarding roles
- ❖ Ongoing training and learning opportunities
- ❖ Access to regular supervision

7. Managing allegations against a Person in a Position of Trust (PIPOT)

All organisations should comply with their [Person in a Position of Trust Procedures](#) (or visit [Professionals | Adult Safeguarding](#) and select the Policy, Practice & Guidance drop down menu to view all current safeguarding policy and guidance documents). Moreover, it is important that any member of staff who works with Adults at Risk, is aware that they hold a Position of Trust. Should an incident occur in their personal lives, which could impact on their working duties i.e. Police Arrest for Domestic Assault, they will be subject to a PIPOT enquiry. This may result in dismissal, a DBS barring and/or removal of professional status. Each organisation is responsible for their own PIPOT procedures.

8. Activities to promote prevention and early intervention in care settings

Activities to promote prevention and early intervention in care settings may include:

- ❖ Organisations should ensure that the principles of wellbeing and adult safeguarding are directly linked into commissioning, contract and procurement activity
- ❖ Commissioners should assure themselves through contracting arrangements that providers have clear arrangements in place to prevent abuse or neglect and that they undertake a range of activities aimed at keeping service users safe
- ❖ Care providers should be able to demonstrate a person-centred approach to care; a zero tolerance of abuse and neglect which encourages whistleblowing; staff; service user and family awareness of the nature of abuse and what to do if this is suspected; safe recruitment practices; regular quality monitoring and audit of care; regular staff training and updating of skills and clear policies and practice guidance available to all staff and volunteers
- ❖ Care providers should make their staff aware through internal guidelines of what to do when they suspect or encounter abuse of adults in vulnerable situations. This should be incorporated in staff manuals or handbooks detailing terms and conditions of appointment and other employment procedures so that individual staff members will be aware of their responsibilities in relation to safeguarding adults. This information should emphasise that all those who express concern will be treated seriously and will receive a positive response from managers
- ❖ Care Providers should utilise the [Halton Provider Led Concerns process](#) (or visit [Professionals | Adult Safeguarding](#)). This enables Providers to identify and report quality concerns in a timely way and for the Local Authority to identify themes and to reduce the risk of repeated incidents
- ❖ Commissioners should assure themselves, through contracting arrangements that a provider is capable and competent in responding to allegations of abuse or neglect, including having robust processes in place to investigate the actions of members of staff
- ❖ Commissioners should put in place robust arrangements to enable poor or unsafe care to be identified and addressed at an early stage
- ❖ All commissioners or providers of services in the public, voluntary or private sectors such disseminate information about the multi-agency safeguarding policy and procedures

9. Resources and Useful Information

- ❖ [Halton Safeguarding Adults Board](#)
- ❖ [Revisiting safeguarding practice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

- ❖ [Making Safeguarding Personal: What might 'good' look like for those working in the housing sector? | Local Government Association](#)
- ❖ [Making Safeguarding Personal for commissioners and providers of health and social care | Local Government Association](#)
- ❖ [Making Safeguarding Personal: What might 'good' look like for the Police \(local.gov.uk\)](#)
- ❖ [Making Safeguarding Personal: What might 'good' look like for advocacy? | Local Government Association](#)
- ❖ [A Guide to Prevention in Safeguarding - Ann Craft Trust](#)
- ❖ [Preventing abuse and neglect of adults with care & support needs \(scie.org.uk\)](#)
- ❖ NICE safeguarding adults in care homes: [Overview | Safeguarding adults in care homes | Guidance | NICE](#)