

Glossary – Safeguarding Adults

Here is a list of important terms used within safeguarding and their definitions.

Term	Description
Abuse	Abuse is maltreatment of a child. This maltreatment can be of a sexual, emotional, physical or psychological nature.
Adult at risk	<p>A definition introduced by the Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership (2015) in Northern Irish adult safeguarding.</p> <p>Defined as a person aged 18 or over whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their personal characteristics, such as their age, a disability and/or their life circumstances, which include isolation, socioeconomic factors and living conditions.</p>
Adult in need of protection	<p>A definition introduced by the Adult Safeguarding: Prevention and Protection in Partnership (2015) in Northern Irish adult safeguarding.</p> <p>A person aged 18 years or over whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their personal characteristics and/or life circumstances. It also refers to someone who is unable to protect their own wellbeing, property, assets, rights or other interests, as well as to where the action or inaction of another person or persons is causing, or is likely to cause, them to be harmed. Note: self harm and self-neglect are excluded from Northern Irish policy.</p>
Adult Practice Review (APR)	A multi-agency review process that attempts to determine what could have done differently by the agencies and individuals involved to prevent harm or death from happening.
Arranged marriage	<p>The families of both spouses take a leading role in arranging the marriage, but the choice of whether or not to accept the arrangement still remains with the prospective spouses.</p> <p>Source: Multi-agency practice guidance: Handling cases of forced marriage. HM Government June 2014.</p>



Assessment	An assessment is carried out to identify the needs of an individual and whether these needs are met. It also looks at how an individual's day-to-day life and wellbeing are being impacted.
Bullying	A vicious kind of aggressive behaviour distinguished by repeated acts against weaker victims who cannot easily defend themselves.
Confidentiality	Confidentiality is defined as 'the state of keeping or being kept secret or private.' All health and social care settings must take steps to ensure an individual's information is protected from unauthorised access.
Consent	An individual's voluntary and ongoing permission for an intervention.
County lines	This term describes gangs and organised criminal networks expanding their criminal activities from larger cities to small towns using dedicated mobile phone lines (deal lines) to sell drugs. Often these organisations exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store drugs and money.
Cyberbullying	Cyberbullying happens online via texting, emailing, instant messaging or posting messages on social media or in chat rooms. It is different to other forms of bullying because it can take place everywhere and anytime. Anyone can be a victim. Degrading messages quickly reach not only the target but also a vast number of others. This increases the humiliation felt by the victim.
Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)	A governmental body which provides a copy of a person's criminal record.
Discriminatory abuse	Discriminatory abuse is usually motivated by discriminatory and oppressive attitudes towards individuals based on protected characteristics, which includes race, gender, culture, background, religion or belief, disability/ability, sexual orientation and age.



Domestic violence	<p>Domestic violence is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who have been intimate partners or family members.</p> <p>Domestic violence includes psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. It also includes 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage.</p>
Emotional abuse	<p>Emotional abuse can be defined as any act that has a negative impact on the emotional wellbeing of a person.</p> <p>It can include confinement, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation or any other treatment which may diminish an individual's sense of identity, dignity and self-worth.</p>
Extremism	<p>Extremism is strongly linked to terrorist activity. An extremist holds strong beliefs which are contrary to fundamental British values such as democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty, mutual respect, tolerance of different faiths, etc.</p>
Financial abuse	<p>Financial abuse involves theft or misuse of an individual's money, personal possessions and/or resources without their consent.</p>
Forced marriage	<p>A forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage but are coerced into it. Duress can include physical, psychological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure. In cases of vulnerable adults who lack the capacity to consent to marriage, coercion is not required for a marriage to be forced.</p> <p><small>Source: Multi-agency practice guidance: Handling cases of forced marriage. HM Government June 2014.</small></p>
General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)	<p>EU regulation on data protection and privacy.</p>
Human trafficking	<p>The movement of people from one place to another by use of threats or force for the purpose of exploitation (which includes sexual exploitation, economic exploitation, criminal exploitation, domestic servitude, etc.)</p>



Information sharing	The exchange of data between parties, e.g. organisations, people and technologies.
Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB)	A statutory, multi-organisational partnership committee.
Mental capacity	This term describes whether a person has the mental capacity to make their own decisions.
Non-disclosure agreement (NDA)	A legally-binding confidentiality agreement, also known as a 'gagging order'.
Neglect	Neglect is defined as the persistent failure to meet a person's basic physical or psychological needs. It may result from carelessness or a disregard for the needs of others and can seriously impact the health and wellbeing of the neglected adult.
Non-statutory guidance	This is not used to comply or to adhere to legislation, but is more to help improve practice. Non-statutory guidance tends to be shorter and more accessible.
Organisational abuse	Organisational abuse occurs when there are ongoing or one-off incidences of poor treatment of individuals receiving care and support. It can occur within an institution, in a specific care setting (such as a hospital) or in the individual's own home.
Physical abuse	Physical abuse is defined as the intentional causing of physical harm to an adult. It could involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning, scalding, drowning, suffocating and fabricated and induced illness. It can happen at any time of life.



Radicalisation	The HM Government Prevent Strategy 2011 defines radicalisation as 'the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and forms of extremism leading to terrorism.'
Regulations	These are the ongoing processes of monitoring and enforcing the law. On a simplistic level, regulations outline what actions need to be taken to comply with legislation.
Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB)	A multi-agency partnership with the purpose of ensuring that local safeguarding arrangements work effectively and that adults at risk are protected from abuse and neglect.
Safeguarding Adults Reviews (SAR)	A multi-agency review process that attempts to determine what could have been done differently by the agencies and individuals involved to prevent harm or death from happening.
Self-neglect	A behavioural condition in which a person neglects to care for their own basic needs, including personal hygiene, health, food, clothing and living conditions.
Sexual abuse	When a person is forced or persuaded to take part in contact or non-contact sexual activities, whether they understand what is happening or not.
Safeguarding Guidance (SG)	Outlines practices and ways of working that support the compliance of legislation. Codes of Practice are examples of Statutory Guidance.
Terrorism	As defined in the Terrorism Act 2000, terrorism is 'an action that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people, causes serious damage to property or seriously interferes or disrupts an electronic system... ...the use of threat must be designed to influence the government or to intimidate the public and is made for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause.'
Whistleblowing	The raising of a concern inside or outside the workplace, where the concern is about incidences of wrongdoing that are a danger to others (including members of the public).

