



What is a Safeguarding Adult Enquiry?

This leaflet summarises what an adult safeguarding enquiry is. We have also published other leaflets about adult safeguarding.

When there are identified concerns about adult abuse or neglect the Council may decide that it needs:

- To find out what has happened
- Identify ways to protect you from abuse or neglect
- Consider if other adults are at risk, and if they need to be protected.

This is called a '*safeguarding enquiry*'.

Section 42 of the Care Act (2014) requires Somerset County Council to undertake a safeguarding enquiry where it has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult:

- Has care and support needs **and**
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect **and**
- As result of their care and support needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect

The purpose of a safeguarding enquiry is:

- To ensure that concerns are investigated
- To gather more information
- Collect the views of the adult at risk and relevant others
- To prevent, or stop, abuse from occurring.

The terms of the enquiry will to be agreed at the beginning, outlining what actions will be undertaken.

The findings from the enquiry are used to decide whether abuse or neglect has taken place, whether you, or others, are at risk, and if so what else needs to happen.

Who is involved in undertaking the enquiry?

All enquiries should start from the adult at risk point of view. You will be asked what outcome you wish to achieve. Other

important people in your life can contribute to the enquiry if you wish.

The person, or organisation, leading the enquiry will be identified early on.

They could be a member of Somerset County Council's Adult Safeguarding Service, or the Council may ask another organisation that it works with to undertake the enquiry on its behalf.

Other people may be asked for a view on your safety. This may include members of your family, NHS staff or staff who work for an organisation that is providing you with care and support.

Will I be involved in the Enquiry?

Yes. Where possible the person undertaking the enquiry will work with you to ensure your views and wishes are included. You will be asked what matters to you and what outcomes you want to achieve.

If you need support, you can have and advocate or a representative supporting you. If you have any communication needs these will be considered.

You should speak to the person undertaking your enquiry if you need help in arranging this support.

What does a Safeguarding Enquiry involve?

The safeguarding response is personal to you. You will be asked to consider what outcome or response you want from an enquiry.

The aim of the Safeguarding enquiry will be to:

- establish the facts about an incident or allegation
- understand the risk of further harm
- understand how to support you and/or others to be safe in the future
- agree any actions needed regarding the person or agency alleged to be responsible.

The enquiry may involve a wide range of actions, depending on the circumstances. It can range from a conversation, to a meeting, to immediate action to protect your safety.

It may include interviewing people who have witnessed or have knowledge of

what has happened. It could involve reviewing records or policies and procedures.

Sometimes other kinds of investigations might also be needed under other procedures. For example, if a criminal offence is suspected the police may undertake an investigation, and if so, this will take priority.

If the person is an employee of a social care organisation, then an internal employment process may be required. Some enquiries may start an internal incident investigation by an organisation.

A safeguarding enquiry is separate from these, but often organisations work together so that people do not need to say the same thing to a number of different people.

What happens next?

- The findings of the enquiry will be written up in a report.
- These will be shared with you and/or your representative.
- A review meeting, or conversation, may be held to discuss the report

findings. The relevant people will be invited to be part of this meeting/conversation.

- The person leading the enquiry will ask you what difference the enquiry has made to you.

Throughout the safeguarding enquiry, decisions will need to be made as to whether any actions are needed to keep you or other people safe.

Any safety plan about your care or support will be agreed with you, or your representative. These decisions will be reviewed once the enquiry has finished.

If I have questions, who can I speak to?

Wherever possible you should speak to the person leading the enquiry.

Alternatively, you can talk to your Social Worker, Nurse or any person you hold in the position of trust, who can assist you with passing on the information to the person leading the enquiry.

Further information:

Please use the following link to view other leaflets on our website: bit.ly/SSABLeaflets

