

Taking account of children, young people and adults

- All services and settings which offer services should take account of accessibility, publicity, confidentiality and the environment
- All services and settings take account of the views of children and young people in the decisions about and delivery of services
- All services should ensure that racial heritage, language, religion, faith, gender and disability are taken into account when working with a child and their family – for example by the use of interpreters or by making adjustments to enable access for disabled children.
- All services take into account the service user's wishes and feelings and balance this against their right and need to be safeguarded.

The Government believes that safeguarding is everybody's business with communities playing a part in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse. Measures need to be in place locally to protect those least able to protect themselves. Safeguards against poor practice, harm and abuse need to be an integral part of care and support. We should achieve this through partnerships between local organisations, communities and individuals

the Department of Health (DH) released the Statement of government policy on adult safeguarding (1), which set out six key safeguarding principles

1. Empowerment: a presumption of person-led decisions and informed consent. we give individuals relevant information about recognising abuse and the choices available to them to ensure their safety. We give them clear information about how to report abuse and crime, and any necessary support in doing so. We consult them before we take any action. Where someone lacks capacity to make a decision, we always act in his or her best interests.
2. Protection: support and representation for those in greatest need. our local reporting arrangements for abuse and suspected criminal offences, along with our risk assessments, work effectively. Our governance arrangements are open and transparent and communicated to our citizens.
3. Prevention: it is better to take action before harm occurs. we can effectively identify and appropriately respond to signs of abuse and suspected criminal offences. We make staff aware, through provision of appropriate training and guidance, of how to recognise signs and take any appropriate action to prevent abuse from occurring. In all our work, we consider how to make communities safer.
4. Proportionality: a proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented. we discuss with the individual and where appropriate with partner agencies the proportionality of possible responses to the risk of significant harm before we take a decision. Our arrangements support the use of professional judgement and the management of risk
5. Partnership: local solutions achieved via services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse. we have effective local information-sharing and multi-agency partnership arrangements in place and staff understand these. We foster a 'one team' approach that places the welfare of individuals above organisational boundaries.
6. Accountability: accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding the roles of all agencies are clear, together with the lines of accountability. Staff understand what is expected of them and others. Agencies recognise their responsibilities to each other, act upon them and accept collective responsibility for safeguarding arrangements

Introduction - What is the issue?

Defining 'learning disability' is a complex and contentious issue. Recent policy defines learning disability as "a significantly reduced ability to understand new or complex information, to learn new skills with a reduced ability to cope independently which started before adulthood, with a lasting effect on development". However, this may not resonate with learning disabled people's self-definition or that of their families. People with learning disabilities (PLD) experience higher rates of ill health and have more complex health needs than the general population, including epilepsy, dental problems, mental health and behavioural disorders and nutritional disorders. In addition to these difficulties, PLD have problems in accessing primary health care. Access is made more difficult because of communication difficulties and barriers in encounters between health professionals and PLD and practical issues such as long waiting times and lack of consultation time. This can result in a failure to access primary health services such as men's and women's health screening, cervical screening, genetic screening, dental checks and treatment and health promotion. Basic health problems may be unidentified or regarded merely as part of the learning disability rather than a medical problem.

Safer Staffing

- Each organisation/service operates safe recruitment practices including CRB checks/Independent Safeguarding Authority regulations where appropriate to support robust systems for checking references, employment gaps and signed declaration of criminal convictions .
- SSCB procedure for managing allegations against people who work with children and families should be adopted where the service users fall into that category . Each organisation adopts the GONW Guidance for Staff Conduct (Guidance for Safer Working Practice for Adults who work with Children & Young People) which sets out what is expected appropriate behaviour for staff working with children young people and their families.
- Where the service users are adults each organisation adheres to CQC Quality and Outcomes Framework and regulatory requirements in relation to protecting service users from abuse and DOH No Secrets Guidance which sets out what is expected in relation to protection, robust procedures and whistle blowing.
- Each organisation has a clear well publicised zero tolerance of abuse and neglect within the organisation

Training

- RGC will ensure that relevant staff/members complete approved safeguarding training and development opportunities both single and multi-agency, commensurate with their roles and responsibilities.
- Staff and members will have an understanding of their roles and responsibilities , and those of other professionals and organisations in relation to the safeguarding of vulnerable adults, children and young people.

Risk Management

- RGC will to assess and identify the level of risk to the members for whom we have additional responsibility
- Recognise when immediate action is necessary to protect the safety of children young people or vulnerable adults
- Where ongoing risk is recognised, plans are agreed and implemented to prevent further abuse and or decrease the risk
- Risk assessment and management plans take account of challenges, hazards, environmental factors and associated dangers