

Warrington Safeguarding Adults Procedures – Appendix A: Prompts & Other Considerations

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Appendix A: Prompts and Other Considerations

Planning and Communication

There are a broad range of communication factors and considerations that may need to be considered during any enquiry, and during any safeguarding meeting, and they include:

Will the local authority make enquiries or cause others to make enquiries? Will any enquiry involve more than one agency and if so, who are the relevant participants? How will any enquiry be conducted, and the findings shared?

Are criminal proceedings a possible outcome? Is there a need for co-ordinated interviews to avoid repeat interviewing? Is there a need for a formal disclosure interview to take place by the police?

Confidentiality and information sharing; who will communicate with the adult, relevant others and other agencies to keep them informed of progress? What practical assistance would facilitate the adult's involvement and meet their support needs, such as location, advocacy, transport to appointments, assistance with childcare arrangements, accessible interview venues? Time and venue for any meetings to maximise attendance by other professionals, such as the GP.

Others that may be at risk

Are there other children or adults at risk? Consider their relevant mental capacity; consider the continued safety of other adults at risk or in need of care and support? Should referral or requests be made of other agencies, such as police or children's social care services?

Have issues of gender, race, culture, language, other communication needs been considered? Is an interpreter, signer or any other specialist support needed? All interviews should adhere to appropriate witness support standards; is giving video evidence appropriate? If so, is there a need for an Intermediary or Appropriate Adult?

Does any potential risks that any other adults or children may be exposed to mean that the adults refusal to accept safeguarding services can be overturned under public or vital interests.

The Adult

What are the wishes and views of the adult? The relevant mental capacity of the adult, the individual causing the concern or any other individuals involved; Is the adult at risk able to make their own decisions and choices and do they wish to do so? Are they being coerced or pressured into a particular decision? Did the adult consent to the alleged abuse or neglect?

The continued safety of the adult; Does the adult at risk appreciate and understand the nature and consequences of any risk they may be subject to and do they willingly accept such risk?

Does the current level of distress of the adult affect their involvement, and if so, how? Should the adult be present at any meetings or are there more appropriate ways for them to contribute to the decision making? If, and when should a case conference happen?

Have issues of gender, race, culture, language, other communication needs been considered? Is an interpreter, signer or any other specialist support needed? All interviews should adhere to appropriate witness support standards; is video evidence appropriate? If so, is there a need for an Intermediary or Appropriate Adult? Is there a need for the adult to undergo a medical examination, and what arrangements would need to be made?

Is it best to hold one big meeting, or a number of smaller meetings? How long should the meeting last? What length of time will meet the adult's needs and make it manageable for them? What is the timing of the meeting? When should breaks be scheduled to best meet the adult's needs? What time of the day would be best for the adult? Will all the meeting members behave in a way that includes the adult in the discussion? How can meeting members be encouraged to communicate and behave in an inclusive, non-jargonistic way?

What information will be provided, and who will provide the outcome of any enquiry to the adult? Who will support the adult after any enquiry has concluded?

The Individual causing the concern

When, how and by whom is the person alleged to be responsible to be informed about the allegations? What is the relevant mental capacity of the individual causing the concern? Should the enquiry alert the individual causing the safeguarding concern?

Have issues of gender, race, culture, language, other communication needs been considered? Is an interpreter, signer or any other specialist support needed?

All interviews should adhere to appropriate witness support standards; is giving video evidence appropriate? If so, is there a need for an Intermediary or Appropriate Adult? Is there a need for the individual causing concern to undergo a medical examination, and what arrangements would need to be made?

Should the individual causing concern be referred to the Police, Disclosure and Barring Service, their professional body or any other agency? Should disciplinary, performance management, dignity at work, or protected disclosure policies be considered?

Have the rights of the individual been considered? If employed, has their employer informed and updated them as appropriate?

Representatives

Their wishes and views at the outset and their involvement throughout; their ability to be a protective factor for the adult at risk; confidentiality and disclosure; How the views of relevant others fit with the views of the adult; what information will be provided, and who will the outcome of any enquiry to relevant others?

How can any disagreements be resolved, and what recourse can relevant others have? Who will support family members after any enquiry has concluded?