



# Barrow Borough Council

## Safeguarding Adults Policy

| VERSION CONTROL |                              |
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## 1 Working to Cumbria multi-agency policy & procedures

The Council is working within the Lancashire/Cumbrian multi-agency approach to adult safeguarding (Safeguarding adults: Pan Lancashire and Cumbria Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures) and endorses the following definition:

***“Safeguarding means protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect”.***

Safeguarding applies to adults who:

- have needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs);
- is experiencing or at risk of abuse or neglect; and
- as a result of care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of or the experience of abuse or neglect

**The definitions of different types of abuse are set out within the Council’s Adult Safeguarding Procedures, which should be read alongside this Policy.**

## 2 Priorities

**With this policy the Council aims to:**

- ensure that our staff, members, contractors and partners are clear about their role and responsibilities;
- participate in multi-agency partnerships which provide timely and effective prevention;
- support the development of a positive learning environment across these partnerships;
- enable access to community resources such as accessible leisure facilities, safe town centres and community groups which can reduce the social and physical isolation which in itself may increase the risk of abuse or neglect.

**The Council, in formally endorsing the multi- agency approach, must ensure:**

- 1) information on allegations and incidents of abuse is collected and processed effectively;
- 2) the Council’s Safeguarding Lead monitors and reviews incidents, actions and outcomes to inform decision-making and future practice;
- 3) compliance with relevant information sharing protocols;
- 4) clarity of the process, including with regard to the adaption of the early help model used in children’s safeguarding, to assist early action by the Council and in partnership with other agencies;
- 5) consistent use of the Safeguarding Referral form for raising concerns and ensuring this is passed to the Council’s Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL);
- 6) clear guidance how and when the Council should be raising concerns within the Council and how this will escalate into a referral to the Cumbria level;
- 7) clarity on responsibility as employer and local authority to make safeguarding referrals to the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS);

### 3 Roles and responsibilities

All Barrow Borough Council employees and Elected Members have a responsibility to carry out their duties in a way that is mindful of the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of adults.

Employees and Elected Members will be made aware of their roles and responsibilities through the induction process, corporate policies and procedures, safeguarding training, job profiles and work programmes.

All Barrow Borough Council employees and Elected Members have a responsibility to prioritise the well-being of vulnerable adults and record and report any concerns they have about the welfare of an adult.

#### **Membership of Barrow Borough Council Safeguarding Team:**

- Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) : Jan Sharp
- Deputy DSL: Steph Cordon
- Designated Safeguarding Officers (DSOs):
  - Amanda Brierley
  - Alice Cruse
  - Cathy Hornby
  - Caroline Kendall
  - Rosalynn Stewart
- Safeguarding Champion: Cllr Beverly Morgan

### 4 Safeguarding principles

- Safeguarding has the highest priority.
- Barrow Borough Council acknowledges the priority of safeguarding adults at risk.
- The adult at risk should be the primary focus of decision-making, determining what safeguards they want in place and provided with options so they maintain choice and control.
- All action should begin with the assumption the adult at risk is best- placed to judge their own situation and knows best the outcomes, goals and well- being they want to achieve.
- Adults at risk should be given accessible information, advice and support and be supported to be included in all forums that are making decisions about their lives. The maxim “no decision about me without me” should govern all decision-making.
- All decisions should be made with the adult at risk and promote their well- being and be reasonable, justified, proportionate and ethical.

### 5 National good practice in safeguarding adults

The Care Act (2014) states that safeguarding:

- Is person-led
- Outcome-focused
- Based upon a community approach from all partners and providers
- Engages the person all the way through the process and addresses their needs

The Council will work in line with the national six principles (which apply to all sectors in adult safeguarding work) to inform the way our staff work with vulnerable adults. These are:

1. **Empowerment** – People being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions and informed consent.
2. **Prevention** – it is better to take action before harm occurs.
3. **Proportionality** – Proportionate and least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented.
4. **Protection** – support and representation for those in greatest need.
5. **Partnership** – local solutions through services working with their communities. Communities have a part to play in preventing, detecting and reporting neglect and abuse.
6. **Accountability** – accountability and transparency in delivering safeguarding.

## 6 Safeguarding adults policy – working in partnership

This policy is designed to dovetail with partner organisations, and their staff, to achieve the Care Act's vision for adult safeguarding where:

- Safeguarding is the responsibility of all agencies
- A whole-system approach is developed
- Safeguarding responses are proportionate, transparent and outcome-focused
- The adult's wishes are at the centre of a safeguarding enquiry
- There is an emphasis on prevention and early intervention
- People are supported in their recovery from abuse or neglect.

The appendices to this policy include the safeguarding reporting procedure within the Council and the internal form for referring and recording a safeguarding concern.

This policy, and accompanying procedures, will be monitored and reviewed every three years.

## 7 Further information

- [Barrow Borough Council Adult Safeguarding Procedures](#)
- [Barrow Borough Council Whistleblowing Policy](#)
- [Barrow Borough Council Domestic Abuse Policy](#)
- [Barrow Borough Council Modern Slavery Statement](#)
- [Statutory Prevent Duty Guidance for England](#)
- [Cumbria Safeguarding Adults Board](#)
- [Cumbria Safeguarding Adults Board - Safeguarding Adults Threshold Tool](#)