

1 Forensic examinations of adults - background

The *Forensic examination of adults interagency policy* covers the pilot of a Forensic examination of adults service across North Lincolnshire safeguarding partnership.

The purpose of this policy is to provide an outline of the process that will be undertaken when an adult at risk has sustained an injury as a result of physical abuse or neglect.

The policy also outlines the governance framework that supports this pilot.



2 Legislation

[The Care Act 2014](#) places a duty on local authorities to make enquiries, or cause others to do so, if it believes that an adult:

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



3 Indicators of non - accidental injury (NAI)

Non - accidental injury (NAI) is a term used to describe a number of different physical injuries or abuse to an adult.

The term describes any injury that is said to have been inflicted. This means that it cannot simply be an injury that occurred unintentionally or unexpectedly. Consider NAI if the injury does not fit with the alleged history.

Indicators of NAI may include:

- Bruising (head, neck, upper limbs, and body); bruises larger than 5cm.
- Increased agitation.
- Multiple injuries sustained over time.



4 Immediate actions

If non - accidental injury (NAI) is suspected, assess the situation and gather information.

Ask yourself questions:

- Is there a need for medical care?
- Has a crime been committed?
- Is evidence preserved?
- Is the victim safe?
- Is the alleged perpetrator a person in a position of trust (PiPoT)?
- Has the alleged victim got capacity to agree to a safeguarding referral? If not, follow the [MCA 2005](#) guidance.
- Is anyone else at risk of immediate harm? Consider children, family members, wider public.



5 Competency / training requirements

Practitioners will work within the expectations of the policy document *Forensic medical examiner - adult safeguarding roles and responsibilities*.

Safeguarding adults team and supporting partners will all receive forensic awareness training to support the implementation of the pilot.

A level 3 package of education has been written and will be made available to raise forensic awareness.

Members of the North Lincolnshire Safeguarding Adult Board will receive forensic awareness updates where required.

7 Further information

For more information about safeguarding adults, please visit www.northlincsab.co.uk.

Contact information for the North Lincolnshire safeguarding adults team: safeguardingadultreferrals@northlincs.gov.uk , 01724 297000.



6 Referral process

Referrals to the forensic examiner must be made via the LA safeguarding adults team, identifying on the referral form that there are suspicions of a NAI.

North Lincolnshire safeguarding adults team referral form can be found [here](#).

Referrals into the LA safeguarding adults team can come from any source, the most likely being:

- Acute trusts.
- CQC, local authorities.
- Humberside police vulnerability hub.
- QDM / provider development teams.
- Operational safeguarding adults teams.

