

How long will the enquiry take?

It is important that timely action is taken, whilst respecting that principle that the views of the adult at risk are paramount. It is also important to ensure that timely action is taken to reduce risk, in the majority of cases enquiries take around six weeks, but this will vary dependent on the situation.

Safeguarding plans

Wherever there are ongoing risks a safeguarding plan may be developed. The aim of the plan is to identify actions to address and manage ongoing risks. A safeguarding plan is not the same as care and support plan, it focuses on care provision only in relation to the aspects that safeguard against abuse or neglect.

The wishes of the adult are very important, particularly where they have capacity to make decisions about their safeguarding. The wishes of those that lack capacity are of equal importance. Any safeguarding plan will be developed in partnership with the adult and / or their representative along with partner agencies if appropriate.



The following six safeguarding principles guide and support our approach to adult safeguarding:

- **Empowerment**—people are asked what outcomes they want from the safeguarding process, these directly inform what happens
- **Prevention**—people receive clear and simple information about what abuse is, how to recognise it and seek help
- **Protection**—people get help and support to report abuse and neglect. They get help to take part in the safeguarding process
- **Partnership**—people are confident that professionals will work together to get the best result for them
- **Accountability**—people understand the role of everyone
- **Proportionality**—people are sure professionals will work in their best interest, only getting involved as much as needed

Further information

Further information including factsheets, videos and policies and procedures is available on the Safeguarding Adults Board website

www.northlincssab.co.uk

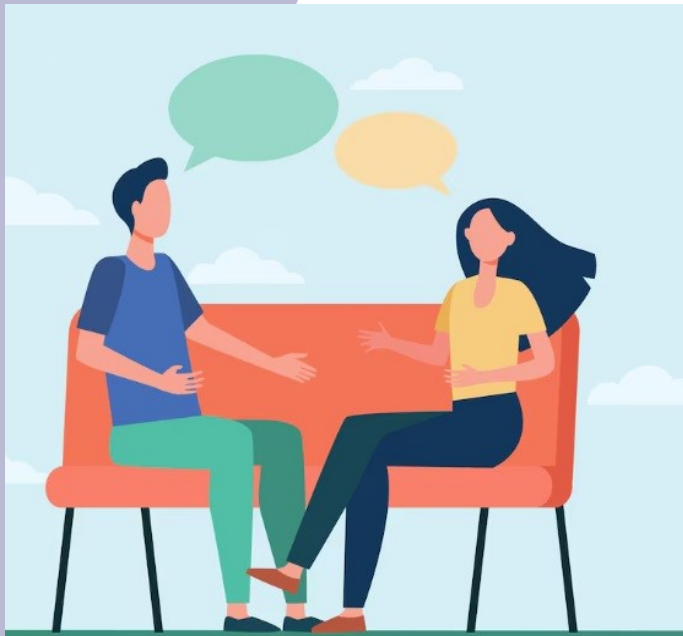


What is a Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiry?

Safeguarding enquiry

Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 requires that each local authority must make enquiries, or cause others to do so, if it believes an adult is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect. An enquiry should establish whether any action needs to be taken to prevent or stop abuse or neglect, and if so, by whom.

This means that North Lincolnshire Council has a responsibility to lead and oversee safeguarding enquiries, it can also request that a suitable person from another organisation (such as a nurse, care home provider etc) undertake the enquiry on their behalf where they may be more suitable to undertake it. Specific circumstances will usually determine who the right person is to undertake the enquiry, including who has the closest relationship with the adult at risk and who has the right skills and knowledge.



What does an enquiry involve?

The purpose of a safeguarding enquiry is to decide what action is needed to help and protect the adult.

Its aims are to:

- establish the facts about an incident or allegation
- ascertain the adult's views and wishes on what they want as an outcome from the enquiry
- assess the needs of the adult for protection, support and redress and how they might be met
- protect the adult from the abuse and neglect, as the adult wishes
- establish if any other person is at risk of harm
- decide what follow up actions should be taken with regard to the person or organisation responsible for the abuse or neglect
- enable the adult to achieve resolution and recovery

The enquiry may involve a wide range of activities depending on the circumstances. It will include talking to people who have witnessed or been involved in the incident. It might also involve reviewing records or policies and procedures.

Sometimes other investigations might run alongside a safeguarding enquiry. For example, if a criminal offence is suspected, the police may undertake an investigation. If the person is an employee, then a disciplinary process may be required. There may also be a need for an internal incident investigation.

A safeguarding enquiry is separate from these, but organisations will work together and share information.

Who is involved in the enquiry?

All enquiries should start from the adult at risk's point of view. The adult will be asked what outcome they wish to achieve. Other important people in the person's life can contribute to the enquiry if they wish.



The person, or organisation, leading the enquiry will be identified early on. They could be a member of North Lincolnshire Council's Safeguarding Adults Team, or the council may ask another organisation that it works with to undertake the enquiry on its behalf. The Safeguarding Team will discuss and agree with appropriate partner agencies very early on in the process who is the best person/organisation to lead on the enquiry—this will usually be someone who knows the person the best and who has the right skill and expertise, for example—the allocated Social Worker, a health professional or a care provider.

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, an independent advocate can be arranged, or a family member / friend can support you. If you have any communication needs these will be considered.