



Leeds Safeguarding  
Adults Board

## **The Leeds Approach to Safeguarding: Developing Safeguarding Adults Practice in Leeds**

In Leeds we have been undertaking a review of safeguarding practice; we want to move our practice from process to people, based on a set of clear values and standards that are understood by all.

We have asked a whole range of people and organisations what works well and what could be better in Leeds, and have heard that we can improve how we work together to safeguard adults from abuse and neglect.

### **What we learned:**

We consistently heard that the focus of our multi-agency policy and procedures should be on:

- The views of the person about how they want to be supported
- The assessment and management of risk, and
- Learning to prevent a reoccurrence of the concerns.

To do this better, we were told that that we need to move away from the current practice of formally making decisions about whether there was evidence of abuse and neglect. Instead, we should focus on responding to risk as a multi-agency partnership.

### **Changes we are making now:**

In light of this feedback, we are making some immediate changes to our multi-agency safeguarding adults policy and procedures.

From 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017, the Board will remove the requirement to make a formal decision about the evidence of abuse and neglect.

*This marks a departure from the regional multi-agency policy and procedures, Section 14.7 of which will no longer be applicable to safeguarding practice in Leeds.*

We will issue new Formal Enquiry forms and a new format for Case Conference Discussion/Meetings, which we will call Outcome Discussions/Meetings.

*This terminology now replaces that described within Section 14, and elsewhere within the regional multi-agency policy and procedures in Leeds.*

For a short period after the 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017 (two months or after in exceptional circumstances), the Safeguarding Coordinator will have the discretion to record a formal decision as to whether there is evidence of abuse or neglect. This may be appropriate when an enquiry is already reaching a conclusion and the person at risk or their representative has a very clear expectation that this was the process being followed. However, in all other situations, this previous requirement will not apply.

### **Changes we will be making next year**

We are now starting the work of writing the Leeds multi-agency safeguarding adults policy and procedures. This will involve incorporating our learning from our consultations.

We will build on our learning about being focused on people not processes, assessing and managing risk, and learning to prevent future concerns. We will also build on other key learning, such as having simple and clear processes and good partnership working and ensure that local learning from Safeguarding Adults Reviews and Domestic Homicide Reviews concerning adults with support and care needs is included.

We aim to share a revised draft policy and procedure in early 2018, which we will then share, seeking everyone's views as to how we can improve this further.

### **How you can help:**

As we develop our new approach, we want to hear your views and comments about how we should develop safeguarding practice in Leeds.

- We want to hear your ideas about how we can work better together, to improve our responses for those at risk.
- We want to hear about good practice examples that we can use to share with others.
- We want to hear about good practice guides that will help practitioners to overcome the challenges they experience in practice.

Please tell us what works well – we look forward to hearing your views and suggestions. Please do email us: [safeguarding.adults@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:safeguarding.adults@leeds.gov.uk)



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