



Decision Making Guidance Additional Information

The Government recognises that safeguarding concerns and referrals may increase during peaks of the COVID-19 outbreak, with more people receiving support and also support needs changing, which may prompt concerns.

The [Ethical Framework for Adult Social Care](#) provides support to ongoing response planning and decision-making to ensure that ample consideration is given to a core set of ethical values and principles when organising and delivering social care for adults, including for safeguarding. Appropriate records must be kept of which decisions are taken and their justifications to ensure accountability, every decision will require consideration of individual wellbeing, overall public good and the resources that are available. The values and principles of the Framework should serve as a starting point to guide decision-making.

The table below identifies the level of concern where immediate action is required.

The examples are not exhaustive and as per previous guidance, it is expected that practitioners will use professional judgement to inform decision-making – [Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board Decision Making Guidance](#).

Red/high priority

Critical Safeguarding Adult Concerns where there is a need for immediate action.

Example: You have been made aware of an individual with care and support needs who is being subjected to significant abuse/neglect, which is highly likely to cause risk to life and/or risk of life changing injury; there may be concerns regarding capacity and/or them being subject to controlling and coercive behaviour and therefore powerless to seek help. There is no agency visiting the property/the individual has not been seen by any professionals/third party for some considerable length of time and there is no identifiable safe means of having some dialogue with the individual; therefore, no additional information can be gathered.

Further factors to consider:

- Risk to life, risk of significant life-changing injury
- Significant sexual assault within the past week.
- Imminent Forced Marriage
- Significant threats to wider public safety
- Human Trafficking and/or Modern Slavery
- Welfare concerns
- Cases where an urgent application needs to be made to court

Please note: Visits need only be completed where the context of the safeguarding meets the current red RAG rating criteria, AND creative use of technology (such as video call, Skype, telephone contacts, etc.) to gather critical information and complete critical assessments and consultations to meet legal requirements cannot otherwise be achieved.

All visits must be discussed and agreed with your line manager.

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