

Raising a Safeguarding Adults Concern in Shropshire: Signposting

This document has been produced to support organisations in Shropshire to make an informed decision about raising a Safeguarding Adults Concern.

Signposting document produced by:

Karen Littleford, MA
Safeguarding Adults Lead, Shropshire Partners in Care
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<http://www.spic.co.uk/>

Initial Decisions about Raising a Concern

You have concerns about the potential abuse or neglect of an adult with care and support needs and;

- have taken appropriate action to ensure the adult with care and support needs safety and others;
- involved the adult in initial discussions about raising a Safeguarding Adults Concern with the local authority
- refer to **Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board Guidance; the Safeguarding Process in Shropshire** to support your decision making *Access the full document [here](#)*

Decisions about Raising a Concern

If you have identified an adult with care and supports needs who is experiencing abuse or neglect or at risk of abuse or neglect, your first priority is with them, to make them safe (including reporting to the Police if immediate action is required).

There are some circumstances that will **not require** reporting as a Safeguarding Adults Concern with the local authority. This is usually where no harm has occurred, it is not on-going, the adult has been involved in the decision about raising a concern and action has been taken by the organisation to ensure it does not happen again or continue. For instance, this may include situations around low level medication errors where no harm has occurred, action has been taken by the organisation and no formal action is being taken with a member of staff.

Considerations when not Raising a Concern:

- The impact on the person is low and you are satisfied that the abuse will not continue and you have taken action (Accountability and Proportionality).
- If you are not raising a concern, it is advisable for you to make a record of the rationale for your decision and what action you have taken on the form provided in The Safeguarding Process in Shropshire document [appendix 4](#) (Accountability).

- Include the following information:
 - Summarise your discussion with the adult and/or their representative about what has happened to them
 - Explain what you have done to make the adult safe (including care plan and risk management changes if relevant)
 - Explain why you think the abuse will not continue

Exception to the above –

- If you employ someone (or have a volunteer) who has harmed an adult with care and care and support needs or poses a risk of abuse or neglect (current or historic) and you are likely to be using your disciplinary policy, **you must** raise a safeguarding concern. The local authority has a responsibility to retain oversight on how position of trust matters are dealt with (Partnership and Accountability).

You may still have to share information with others, raise Statutory Notifications with the Care Quality Commission and support the adult to deal with their situation and prevent issues from happening in the future even when not raising a safeguarding adults concern.

Considerations when Raising a Safeguarding Adults Concern

If you are raising a Safeguarding Adults Concern in Shropshire you must be prepared to answer the following questions:

- Does the adult know about the concern
- What are the signs of abuse or neglect and why you think it is on-going
- What impact it is having on the person
- What you have done to reduce the risk to the person

You are not sure whether to raise a safeguarding concern (Shropshire)

If you are not sure whether to raise a safeguarding concern, please ring First Point of Contact (Shropshire Council) for advice on 0345 678 9044.

Reference:

Hollinshead-Bland, S., Littleford, K. and Cooper, P. (2016) *The Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board Guidance; the Safeguarding Process in Shropshire*. Shrewsbury: Keeping Adults Safe in Shropshire Board. <https://new.shropshire.gov.uk/adult-social-care/where-can-i-get-help/concerned-about-someone/>