

The West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board is committed to ensuring that all agencies work together to minimise abuse or neglect to vulnerable adults at risk and to safeguard effectively where abuse or neglect has, or may have, occurred.

The Board aims to ensure that there are effective mechanisms in place, to ensure that there is a consistent approach to learning, and promotion of best practise and that the Voluntary Care Sector and Healthwatch are vital to ensure that this promotion is effective as possible. The Board has a subgroup to deliver on this objective.

The following organisations are represented at this subgroup: [Reading Voluntary Action](#), [Involve](#), [Volunteer Centre West Berkshire](#), [HealthWatch Wokingham](#), [Healthwatch West Berkshire](#) and [Healthwatch Reading](#).

The subgroup created this briefing in order to raise awareness in the voluntary sector on the Boards current priorities.

Priority 1 - Self-Neglect

Self-neglect is a type of abuse. Self-neglect encompasses a wide range of behaviour – neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. It can be difficult to engage with people that self-neglect.

Spotting Self-neglect, some possible signs may include the following:

- A person who self-neglects may live in a very unclean environment, which may be hazardous, for example living with a rodent infestation or living with a completely blocked toilet.
- A person who self-neglects may have a poor diet and nutrition that may impact on their health and wellbeing. For example, there is little or no fresh food in the fridge, or food is mouldy and very out of date.
- A person who self-neglects may fail to attend important appointments.
- A person who self-neglects may decline necessary support from health and/or social care staff in relation to personal hygiene and care. They may have poor personal hygiene, poor healing of sores, or long toenails.
- A person who self-neglects may neglect household maintenance, and therefore create hazards or fire risks. For example: rotten floorboards creating trip hazards or lack of boiler or electrical maintenance.
- Hoarding is associated with self-neglect. A hoarding disorder is where someone acquires an excessive number of items and stores them in a chaotic manner, usually resulting in unmanageable amounts of clutter.

If you are concerned about someone that maybe self-neglecting, discuss this with the nominated safeguarding lead in your agency for advice and support. People that self-neglect often say they do not want help but it may be appropriate to raise a safeguarding concern without the persons consent.

Priority 2 – Pressure Care

The Board have agreed that supporting the partnership in raising awareness around appropriate pressure care management for professionals, volunteers, those at risk of developing pressure ulcers and their loved ones, is important.

Pressure ulcers, also referred to as pressure sores or bed sores, are normally caused by people who are confined to bed or who sit in a chair or wheelchair for long periods of time. Other vulnerable groups are people with mobility problems and who have skin that's more easily damaged through dehydration, people who are obese, have urinary or bowel incontinence or a medical condition that affects their blood supply like diabetes, MS, kidney or heart failure.

Pressure ulcers can be life threatening if not treated correctly and it is vital that steps are taken to reduce the risk of pressure sores developing. Equipment and/or services may be provided to reduce the risk of pressure ulcers. Such as specialised cushions or regular care calls to assist with dressing wounds.

If you are concerned that a person or their support network may not be managing their pressure care appropriately, please discuss with your safeguarding lead in your agency for advice and support.

Priority 3 – Organisational Safeguarding

It is the responsibility of our partners to work with providers of Adult Social Care to ensure all services provided are safe and meet the needs of their customers. These are services such as: Home Care, Residential Care, Day Care.

Volunteers are asked to share any concerns they have about Adult Social Care services in order to support the partnership in working effectively with these providers to improve the quality of their services.

Examples of quality issues are: home care calls not at an agreed time, activities being cancelled due to staff shortages.

If you have concerns about the quality of services being delivered these can be reported to the Local Authority via their care quality or safeguarding processes and the Care Quality Commission. It may not always be clear if an issue should be reported as a safeguarding concern or a quality concern please discuss this with your safeguarding lead in your agency for advice and support.

Concerned about an adult?

If it is not an emergency, speak to your organisations safeguarding lead as soon as possible, for advice and support and if you remain concerned that an adult is being abused or neglected, contact Adult Social Care in the area which the person lives , on the numbers, email address or by completing an online form below:

Reading – call 0118 937 6500 or email safeguarding.adults@reading.gov.uk or complete an online [form](#)

West Berkshire - call 01635 519056 or email safeguardingadults@westberks.gov.uk or complete an online [form](#)

Wokingham call 0118 974 6371 or email Adultsafeguardinghub@wokingham.gov.uk or complete an online [form](#)

For help outside of normal working hours contact the **Emergency Duty Team** on 01344 351 999 or email edt@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

In an emergency call 999.

Our Websites:

[Home | Safeguarding Adults Board \(sabberkshirewest.co.uk\)](http://Home|SafeguardingAdultsBoard(sabberkshirewest.co.uk))

[Home Of Berkshire Safe Guarding For Adults \(berkshiresafeguardingadults.co.uk\)](http://HomeOfBerkshireSafeGuardingForAdults(berkshiresafeguardingadults.co.uk))

[Reading Voluntary Action](#)

[Involve](#)

[Volunteer Centre West Berkshire](#)

[HealthWatch Wokingham](#)

[Healthwatch West Berkshire](#)

[Healthwatch Reading.](#)

