

Bournemouth and Poole Safeguarding Adults Board

Fact Sheet 2 - Information for relatives friends and Informal carers



Updated: 27.09.16

The safeguarding adult procedures are in place to protect adults at risk from abuse, harm or neglect.

Relatives and friends can be helpful in offering support at a very stressful time for the adult at risk and, with their agreement, can help them to give their views about what has happened. They can give additional valuable information and can assist with managing the risk over time and providing continuity.

It is important that if the adult at risk wants their relatives and friends to be involved in the safeguarding enquiry that they should be included. This can help the adult at risk to feel fully supported when dealing with difficult or distressing issues.

If the adult at risk gives their consent, it will be possible to share with you the concerns for their welfare or safety. It will also be possible to involve you within meetings about how concerns or allegations are being addressed and how your friend/relative is being supported to be safe in the future.

If the adult at risk decides that they do not wish for a relative or friend to be informed or involved, then those involved in the safeguarding arrangements will need to respect this decision. If your relative or friend does not have the ability or mental capacity to decide this for themselves a decision will need to be made in their 'best interests' in line with the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

Roles within the safeguarding procedures

Relatives or friends may have a range of roles depending on the circumstances and wishes of the adult at risk.

These may include:

- supporting the adult at risk to tell the Safeguarding Practitioner what their views and wishes are and to help make sure these views are heard;
- supporting the person through meetings or interviews about their experiences;
- sharing knowledge about the risks the person is experiencing and their support needs;
- contributing to the process and the safeguarding plan; this a record of the agreed actions that will keep the person safe from abuse, harm or neglect;
- supporting an assessment of needs, sometimes this may include your needs if you are their carer;
- advocating or speaking on behalf of, for the adult at risk according to their wishes, or in their best interests if they do not have the mental capacity to represent themselves on particular issues;
- talking to a paid advocate.

If I have questions, who can I ask?

If there is an enquiry being undertaken, you can ask to speak to the Enquiry Manager about the procedures being followed. You may wish to record their contact details in the space provided below:

If a Safeguarding Review Meeting has already been arranged, you may also wish to speak to the Safeguarding Review meeting Chair.

Other Information

The Fact Sheets and the Safeguarding Adult Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures are available for anyone to read at www.bpsafeguardingadultsboard.com.