

7 MINUTE BRIEFING

Safeguarding Versus Risk



**KNOWSLEY
SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS BOARD**

PREVENTION THROUGH PARTNERSHIP



1. What's the difference between Safeguarding and Risk?

Safeguarding can mean two quite different things:

- A formal response under the law led by the local authority, Section 42 Care Act 2014 (Safeguarding)
- A response by any involved agency to help someone reduce general risks and meet needs in their day-to-day life (safeguarding risk).



2. What is a Safeguarding enquiry?

A safeguarding enquiry under S42 happens when:

- A concern about a person is shared with the local authority
- That person has needs for care and support ([under the Care Act criteria](#))
- They are at risk from or experiencing abuse or neglect and that because of their care and support needs, they are unable to protect themselves from the abuse or neglect.

All of these criteria need to be met for a s42 enquiry to take place.



3. Safeguarding or Risk?

What type of abuse category are you concerned about?

Does it fit into one of [the ten categories which is under the Care Act categories](#) of abuse?

This does not mean that the person doesn't need some support, or that the local authority won't assist or intervene. A person may need alternative support, e.g. living safely and independently at home or support with their mental health.

- [Social Care Needs Assessment](#)
- [Mental Health support or diagnosis](#)
- [Home | The Live Well Directory for Liverpool City Region](#)



4. What to do if you think an adult is at risk of abuse and neglect?

You can make a [safeguarding referral](#) or contact the Knowsley Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub **MASH team** for advice on Tel: **0151 443 2600**.

For more information on what happens next please see our [7-minute briefing on Knowsley Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub \(MASH\)](#).



5. Managing Risk

Some people with physical or mental health needs, who also need help to manage their care, live in complex circumstances. These people may need support to keep safe and well, to manage the risks of day-to-day life, and may have multiple organisations involved to do this.

- Holding a professionals meeting ([MARAM](#)) to support the individual
- Speak to other professionals, can they help to signpost to the appropriate agencies?
- Ask the team MASH for support and signposting



6. If you think someone needs other support you should...

- Contact Knowsley Access Team on 0151443 2600 and ask for a social care needs assessment or complete the [referral form](#), you should ask the person for permission before contacting on their behalf.
- If a person has a medical need or mental health need then after seeking permission, you should contact their GP or other health professional.
- If there is a life-threatening need you should contact 999



7. Can the decision be reviewed?

If your concern has not met the threshold for a Safeguarding enquiry, ask the professional politely for reasons why.

The professional will offer advice and support with the issue, regardless of the safeguarding decision. If you still have concerns about abuse and harm, you can ask for the decision to be reviewed.

You may have additional concerns that come up after that decision was made. If so, it may be you discuss these concerns with the local authority (MASH).