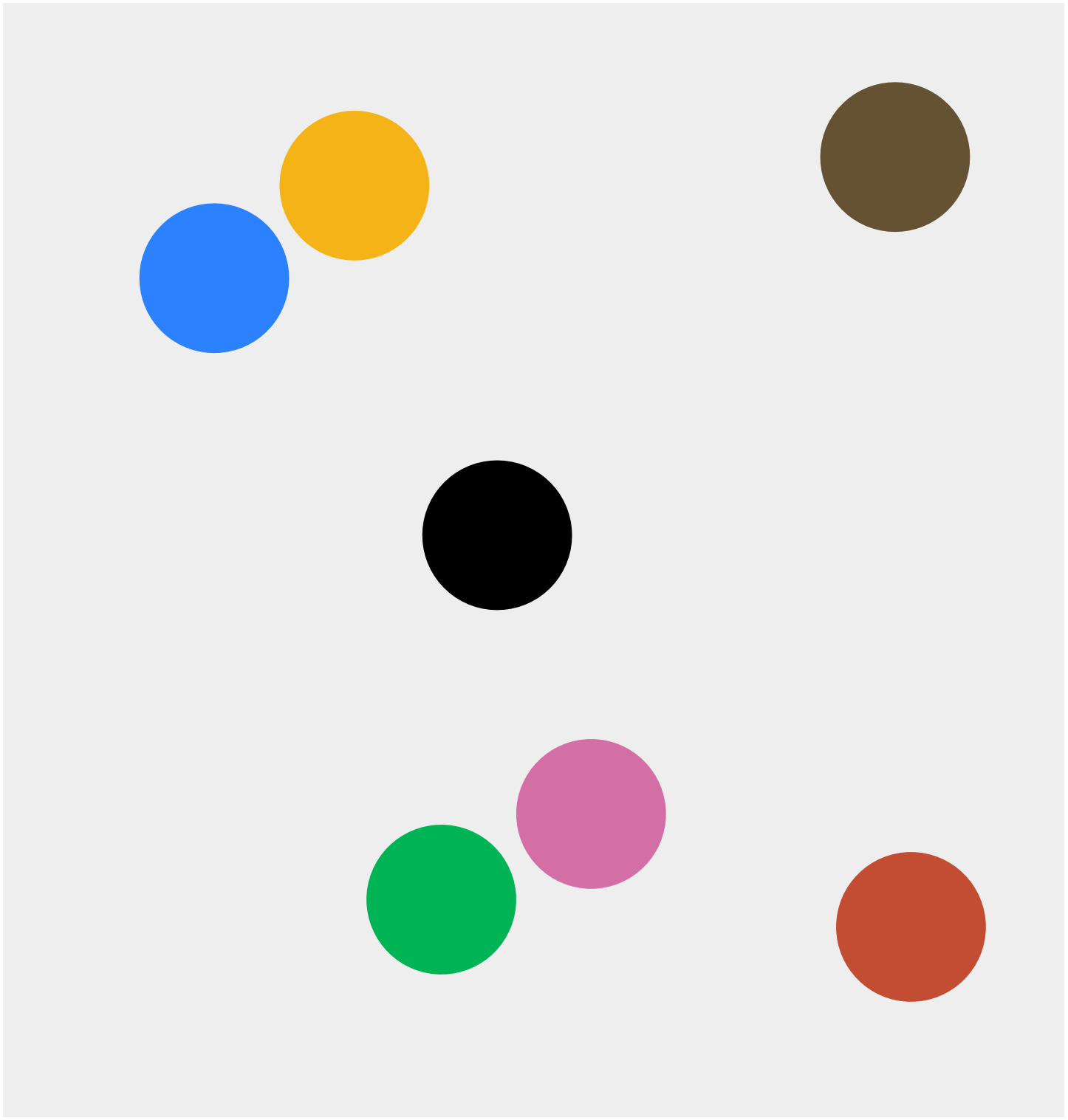


The Children's Grief Charity

Safeguarding Adults Policy October 2026

Approved by Trustees: 26 October 2026

This procedure sets out the responsibilities and actions that must be taken whenever a concern or allegation about actual or potential abuse of an adult is identified. By following this procedure, employees and volunteers will resolve safeguarding concerns in a way that maximises the welfare and safety of service users.

Responsibilities

Safeguarding adults is everybody's business. We all have a role to play in ensuring that everyone in our communities is treated with dignity and respect, can make informed decisions about their lives without being subject to undue pressure and will be protected from harm and abuse wherever possible. The Children's Grief Charity accepts the principles of working with adults at risk set out within the Care Act 2014.

At The Children's Grief Charity, we understand our safeguarding responsibilities towards adults at risk as:

- Protecting their rights to live safely, free from abuse and neglect.
- People and organisations work together to prevent the risk of abuse or neglect, and to stop them from happening.
- Making sure their wellbeing is promoted, taking their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs into account.

In addition, there are specific safeguarding responsibilities within The Children's Grief Charity:
The Chief Executive holds ultimate accountability for adherence to the policy and procedure, ensuring that reasonable resources are made available for its implementation.

The CEO is the Adult Safeguard Lead (or Designated Safeguarding Lead, DSL) and has a duty to report relevant safeguarding events to the ICB and is responsible for ensuring this document is compliant with statutory legislation and implemented into practice.

The Safeguarding Lead, supported by the Safeguarding Champions, is responsible for providing advice, expertise, support and training for staff and volunteers on safeguarding queries and concerns and for promoting a culture within the organisation that encourages staff and volunteers to voice any concerns and provides support for staff and volunteers when concerns are expressed.

Line Managers are responsible for informing and educating all existing employees and volunteers about the requirements of this document and dealing with any immediate safeguarding concerns. They are also responsible for ensuring safeguarding concerns are reported to Adult Social Care as relevant and appropriate.

Line Managers are also responsible for the monitoring and oversight of any safeguarding concerns identified by their team. Safeguarding Champions are responsible for supporting individuals within their team who have identified safeguarding concerns, they take responsibility to update and feedback to their respective teams on safeguarding matters and take an active role in safeguarding learning and development and the induction of new starters in their respective teams.

All staff (including Trustees, volunteers, trainees and contractors) are responsible for adherence to the policy and procedure.

Principles

The welfare of the adults, children and young people who use The Children's Grief Charity is of paramount importance. Safeguarding them from harm is an integral aspect of the care and support we provide. The protection of adults, children and young people requires close cooperation between professionals who have a duty to work in partnership and to assist the lead agencies by the provision of appropriate information, knowledge and support.
Safeguarding adults means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

This policy sets out how we will make sure we embed our mission and values, as well as our statutory duties by:

- Working with adults at risk in a caring and respectful way
- Respecting that all adults at risk have a right to be kept safe and free from harm
- Nurturing circumstances that are warm and welcoming
- Minimising risks when taking part in The Children's Grief Charity activities
- Keeping adults at risk protected from harm
- Identify and respond to domestic abuse, modern slavery and other forms of harm
- Developing close working relationships with other organisations to keep adults safe

It provides a clear set of expectations so that we all know what we have to do when we need to respond to any safeguarding worry or concern that suggests there may be a risk to adults who we are working with:

- Everyone who works for or on behalf of The Children's Grief Charity has a duty to safeguard adults at risk.
- Everyone who works for or on behalf of The Children's Grief Charity has a duty to recognise, respond and share concerns or worries about possible harm or abuse.
- Everyone who works for or on behalf of The Children's Grief Charity will be supported to reflect and take appropriate action in situations of adult safeguarding and domestic violence and abuse.

Our Responsibilities

- We believe that regardless of the role we play in the organisation, safeguarding is the responsibility of us all. We all therefore commit to ensuring how we work with others keeps them safeguarded to the highest standard.
- The principles by which we work and ensure adults are safeguarded are that all adults have an equal right to protection from all harm or abuse, regardless of age, ability, gender, racial heritage, religious beliefs, sexual orientation or personal characteristics and we recognise that these factors may present increased vulnerability
- Where safeguarding concerns are identified, the key principles of working with adults at risk embedded in the Care Act 2014, will inform our approach. We will also act in accordance with other statutory guidance pertaining to the work of The Children's Grief Charity i.e. The Domestic Abuse Act (2021)
- We will communicate clearly what we have done and will be doing to safeguard any adult at risk, unless in doing so we would increase risk to them or a child. Where this is the case we may need to act without consultation or communication in order to protect the adult or child at risk.
- An adult's capacity will be assumed unless there is reason to believe that the person lacks capacity

Concerns or allegations that staff or volunteers have abused or neglected adults will be taken very seriously and be managed sensitively and fairly in accordance with these policies, relevant legislation and local procedures

The abuse of adults, children and young people may take place in any environment and may be inclusive or exclusive, that is, it may involve something that is done to a person, or an act that is committed or omitted. People from all backgrounds, of all ages and of all abilities are abused, and the abuser may be known to them or be a stranger. The lead agencies with statutory responsibility for the protection of adults or children are Social Services and the Police. They are supported by the local safeguarding adults and children's boards. Social Services has a duty to investigate all referrals of a safeguarding nature. In relation to adults, this is in accordance with The Care Act 2014. The local Social Services department has the main responsibility to do this, but with the full cooperation of other agencies, both statutory and voluntary. The Children's Grief Charity works in accordance with the key principles of the Care and Support Statutory Guidance and, in particular:

Empowerment
Adults are encouraged to make their own decisions and are provided with support and information.

I am consulted about the outcomes I want from the safeguarding process and these directly inform what happens.

Prevention
Strategies are developed to prevent abuse and neglect that promotes resilience and self-determination.

I am provided with easily understood information about what abuse is, how to recognise the signs and what I can do to seek help.

Proportionate
A proportionate and least intrusive response is made balanced with the level of risk.

I am confident that the professionals will work in my interest and only get involved as much as needed.

Protection
Adults are offered ways to protect themselves, and there is a co-ordinated response to adult.

I am provided with help and support to report abuse. I am supported to take part in the safeguarding process to the extent to which I want and to which I am able.

Partnerships
Local solutions through services working together within their communities.

I am confident that information will be appropriately shared in a way that takes into account its personal and sensitive nature. I am confident that organisations will work together to find the most effective responses for my own situation.

Accountable
Accountability and transparency in delivering a safeguarding response.

I am clear about the roles and responsibilities of all those involved in the solution to the problem.

The Care Act (2014)
The Care Act 2014 sets out a clear legal framework for how local authorities and other parts of the system should protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:
(a)has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
(b) is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
(c) as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.

Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action. Abuse types are defined as:

Physical Abuse
Including assault, hitting, kicking, slapping, punching, pushing, misuse of medication, inappropriate restraint, or inappropriate physical sanctions.

Sexual Abuse
Including rape and sexual assault, sexual harassment or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting. This can include "non-contact" sexual acts such as indecent exposure, online abuse, and nonconsensual pornographic activities.

Psychological Abuse
Including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.

Economic abuse
Including theft, fraud and exploitation, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits. This can include "cuckooing" where a person's property is taken over and used for illegal activities.

Neglect and acts of omission
Including wilfully ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health and social care, including not supporting a person to access clinical appointments and support, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating or depriving someone of stimulation or company, adaptations, equipment or aids to communication.

Self-neglect
This covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and can include behaviour such as hoarding and non-attendance at necessary health/dental appointments. Consideration must be given to the impact on other family members and/or the wider community, mental capacity legislation and whether this gives rise to a safeguarding concern.

Discriminatory abuse
Unequal treatment based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation (known as 'protected characteristics' under the Equality Act (2010).

Organisational abuse
Incident or a series of incidents involving ongoing ill treatment. It can be through neglect or from poor professional practice resulting from inadequate structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation. This may range from isolated incidents to continuing ill treatment in an institution or in relation to care provided in one's own home.

Radicalisation And the Prevent Strategy
Radicalisation is when someone starts to believe or support extreme views. They could be pressured to do things illegal, often using violence by someone else. Or they might change their behaviour and beliefs under coercive manipulation. Prevent is a strategy that seeks to stop people becoming terrorists and supporting violent extremism. Staff will meet and support people who may be drawn into terrorism. The Children's Grief Charity needs to ensure that workers are able to identify early signs of an individual being drawn into radicalisation in line with the Prevent framework.

Radicalisation is comparable to other forms of exploitation and is therefore considered a safeguarding issue that all staff working for or on behalf of The Children's Grief Charity must be aware of. The emphasis is upon supporting vulnerable children, young people, and adults.

There is no expectation that The Children's Grief Charity will take on a surveillance or enforcement role.
Where a 'Prevent Concern' exists, the duty promotes a multi-agency approach, where The Children's Grief Charity will work within arrangements for Multi-Agency Safeguarding.

Extremism is defined in the Prevent Strategy 2011 as vocal or active opposition to fundamental democratic values, including, the rule of law, individual liberty, and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs

The Terrorism and Security Act 2015 defines terrorism as an act that endangers or causes serious violence to a person/people and/or damage to property; or seriously interferes with or disrupts an electronic system

Radicalisation is defined as the process by which people come to support terrorism and violent extremism and, in some cases, to then participate in terrorist groups. Radicalisation should be considered as an 'additional vulnerability' under Working Together 2018. There is no obvious profile of a person likely to become involved in extremism or a single indicator of when a person might move to adopt violence in support of extremist ideas.

Indicators for vulnerability to radicalisation can be similar to those for other forms of abuse and may particularly include:
Distance from cultural heritage
- Experience of migration
- Experience of racism and discrimination
- Family members or friends associated with extremist groups
- Family tensions
- Sense of isolation and feelings of failure

It is important to note that not all individuals at risk of radicalisation and acts of terrorism are susceptible or vulnerable, and they may be acting out of choice.

Staff or any person who works for or on behalf of The Children's Grief Charity may have concerns as a result of:
• A direct disclosure
• An observation
• An expression of concern or complaint made by another person

If you suspect that anyone is at immediate risk or actually engaged in the planning or implementing of an act of terrorism, take the following course of action immediately:

Contact your line manager and consider referral to Police on 999, or Anti-Terrorist Hotline on 0800 789 321, and
Inform the The Children's Grief Charity DSL

Domestic Abuse
Domestic abuse is defined by the Home Office as: 'any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members, regardless of their gender or sexuality'. Domestic abuse includes but is not limited to the following:

Stalking
Honour-Based Abuse
• Coercive and controlling behaviour
• Intimate partner violence
• Forced marriage
• Harassment
• Sexual abuse
• Female Genital Mutilation

Domestic abuse is a pattern of behaviour on the part of the abuser designed to control their partner. It can happen at any point in a relationship, including after the relationship has ended. Domestic abuse can happen to anyone, regardless of age, background, gender, religion, sexuality or ethnicity. Domestic abuse is a crime and it is never the fault of the person who is experiencing it.

It is likely that staff will work in circumstances where there are differing levels of domestic abuse. This abuse may be disclosed by a child, young person or adult within the family, or it may be through observations that domestic abuse is identified. Domestic abuse has a significant impact on children, including increased risks of harm to the child both directly and indirectly, for example by witnessing harm to a non-abusive parent.

If a child discloses domestic abuse to you, it is important to remember that harm can include ill treatment that is not physical as well as the impact of witnessing ill treatment of others and this is particularly relevant in relation to the impact on children of all forms of domestic abuse. As such the needs of the child are paramount and you should follow the procedures detailed in the Safeguarding Children's Policy and Procedure.

If an adult discloses domestic abuse to you or you have identified that domestic abuse has happened, you should make a request for a 'Safeguarding Huddle' to take place immediately on the same day for support to discuss possible actions and options available, with our clinical safeguarding leads and managers. You should do this by making direct, in person, contact with your line manager, safeguarding champions or the DSL.

Other sources of information and support:
There are usually a range of organisations and resources available in local areas to support victims and survivors of domestic abuse. There are also a range of national helpings that can be used in order to receive support.

- Women can call the National Domestic Abuse Helpline (Freephone) - 0808 2000 247
- Men can call Men's Advice Line on 0808 8010 327 (Monday to Friday 10am to 8pm)
- If you identify as LGBT+ you can call Galop on 0800 999 5428
- Anyone can call Karma Nirvana on 0800 5999 247 (Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm) for advice on forced marriage and honour crimes. You can also call 020 7008 0151 to speak to the GOV.UK Forced Marriage Unit

Modern Slavery
The Modern Slavery Act (2015) encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment. Trafficking is the movement of people by means such as force, fraud, coercion or deception with the aim of exploiting them. It is a form of Modern Slavery. People can be trafficked for many different forms of exploitation such as forced prostitution, forced labour, forced begging, and forced criminality, forced marriage, domestic servitude, forced organ removal. Trafficking can occur within the UK as well as countries outside the UK.

The Children's Grief Charity has a zero-tolerance policy towards modern slavery and is committed to reducing the risks of modern slavery within our supply chains as well as ensuring that those working with The Children's Grief Charity are aware and able to identify modern slavery.

Modern slavery is a complex crime and may involve multiple exploitations. Victims may not be aware that they are being trafficked or exploited, and may have consented to elements of their exploitation, or accepted their situation. Each situation can be very different and may not fit a typical view, such as people being forced to work in fields or fishing boats.

If you suspect modern slavery, report it to the Modern Slavery Helpline on 08000 121 700 or the police on 101. In an emergency, always call 999.

Female Genital Mutilation
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external female genital organs or any other injury to the female genital organs for nonmedical reasons. FGM is most often carried out on young girls aged between infancy and 15 years old. Whilst there is a mandatory requirement to report incidents of FGM for children and young people, this is not a requirement for adult women. If a professional has safeguarding concerns about an individual who has experienced FGM, a referral should be made in line with usual local safeguarding arrangements

Disclosures of Historical Abuse (non-recent abuse)
During the course of The Children's Grief Charity's work adults may disclose historical abuse (non-recent abuse). This is usually abuse that has happened to them as a child.

As soon as it is apparent that an adult is disclosing childhood abuse the member of staff must record what is said and the responses given by the staff member. A chronology should be recorded on Lamplight and all records must be dated and made clear.

Consideration must be given to the therapeutic needs of the adult and reassurance given that all reasonable efforts will be made to look into what they have reported.

It is important when someone discloses historical abuse that:

- There is acknowledgment that it takes bravery to disclose past abuse
- That any abuse that happened to them is not their fault
- They are reassured and kept informed during the process

Following disclosure of historical abuse, the procedure is the same as for all other disclosures of abuse and you must consult with your line manager or DSL as soon as possible on the same day, to agree the course of action. You must record the incident in detail on Lamplight within 24 hours of being made aware.

Support & Guidance on raising Adult Safeguard Concerns
The Barnet Safeguarding Adults Board (SAB) coordinates support and protections for adults with care and support needs. If an adult is at risk of abuse, neglect, or harm, contact their local authority social services division: https://safeguarding-guide.nhs.uk/contacts/

Consent
Staff and volunteers should always share safeguarding concerns with their line manager or DSL Lead in the first instance, except in emergency situations. As long as it does not increase the risk to the individual, the member of staff should explain their responsibility to share the concern with their manager.

Making a decision to refer without consent
Individuals may not give their consent to the sharing of safeguarding information for a number of reasons. For example, they may be frightened of reprisals, they may fear losing control, they may not trust social services or other partners or they may fear that their relationship with the abuser will be damaged. Reassurance and appropriate support along with gentle persuasion may help to change their view on whether it is best to share information.

If a person refuses intervention to support them with a safeguarding concern, or requests that information about them is not shared with other safeguarding partners, their wishes should be respected. However, there are several circumstances where the practitioner can reasonably override such a decision, including:
- the person lacks the mental capacity to make that decision – this must be properly explored and recorded in line with the Mental Capacity Act
- other people are, or may be, at risk, including children
- sharing the information could prevent a crime
- the alleged abuser has care and support needs and may also be at risk
- a serious crime has been committed
- GE staff are implicated
- the person has the mental capacity to make that decision, but they may be under duress or being coerced
- the risk is unreasonably high and meets the criteria for a multi-agency risk assessment conference referral
- a court order or other legal authority has requested the information

If the person does not give their consent then, unless it is considered dangerous to do so, it should be explained to them that the information will be shared without their consent.

The reasons should be given and recorded on Lamplight.

The safeguarding principle of proportionality should underpin decisions about sharing information without consent, and decisions should be on a case-by-case basis.

If it is not clear that information should be shared outside the organisation, a conversation can be had with the DSL, the police, or local authority without disclosing the identity of the person in the first instance. They can then advise on whether full disclosure is necessary without the consent of the person concerned.

It is very important that the risk of sharing information is also considered. In some cases, such as domestic violence or hate crime, it is possible that sharing information could increase the risk to the individual.

Rules for Information Sharing in Safeguarding

1. The General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) is not a barrier to sharing information but provides a framework to ensure that personal information about living persons is shared appropriately.
2. Be open and honest with the person (and/or their family where appropriate) from the outset about why, what, how and with whom information will, or could be, shared, and seek their agreement, unless it is unsafe or inappropriate to do so.
3. Seek advice if you are in any doubt, without disclosing the identity of the person where possible.
4. Share with consent where appropriate and, where possible, respect the wishes of those who do not consent to share confidential information. You may still share information without consent if, in your judgement, that lack of consent can be overridden in the public interest. You will need to base your judgement on the facts of the case.
5. Consider safety and wellbeing: base your information-sharing decisions on considerations of the safety and wellbeing of the person and others who may be affected by their actions.
6. Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure: ensure that the information you share is necessary for the purpose for which you are sharing it, is shared only with those people who need to have it, is accurate and up to date, is shared in a timely fashion, and is shared securely.
7. Keep a record of your decision and the reasons for it – whether it is to share information or not. If you decide to share, then record what you have shared, with whom and for what purpose.

Responding to safeguarding concerns
When information is disclosed to you about significant harm that an adult at risk is experiencing, or at risk of, experiencing, this could be in person, on the phone, via web-chat or email. It might be your own or someone else's observation of signs, symptoms of unmet need, neglect or abuse.

If an adult or family member discloses an allegation of abuse to any member of the The Children's Grief Charity team (including volunteers), the following guidelines should be followed:

- Listen calmly and take what the adult says seriously, without displaying shock or disbelief. Offer reassurance, but never promise secrecy or agree not to take action.
- Obtain relevant details, where possible, including the person's full name, age or date of birth, contact details, involvement with The Children's Grief Charity services and a brief outline of the concern.
- Use only open questions to clarify essential information; do not interrogate, ask leading questions, investigate or try to verify what has happened. Investigation is the responsibility of the local authority and/or police.
- Make brief contemporaneous notes and retain them. Record on Lamplight the time, setting, what was said, your responses, details of any witnesses and any immediate action taken.
- Explain, in a way appropriate to the person's age and understanding, that the information will need to be shared, with whom, why and what action may follow. Do not tell them what action is being taken if doing so could place them or others at greater risk.
- Seek the adult's consent to make a safeguarding referral. If they refuse intervention, respect their wishes unless there is a public interest or duty of care to intervene, including where others may be at risk or a crime may have been committed. See "Making a decision to refer without consent" above.
- Confirm that the concern will be treated seriously and explain the next steps that will be taken.
- If there is an immediate risk of harm, take reasonable steps to secure immediate safety. This may include calming an upset person, seeking urgent medical assistance, contacting the local Emergency Duty Team or calling 999. Where the person cannot or will not contact the police and you believe there is immediate danger, you must do so and share the information available.
- Consult your line manager, Safeguarding Champion or DSL immediately on the same day for a 'safeguarding huddle' to agree the course of action; do not delay where this may increase risk. Outside office hours, contact the police and/or the on-call manager as appropriate.

The line manager must:

- Contact the person who received the information immediately on the same day. If the adult is suffering, or likely to suffer, significant harm, make a referral to the local adult social care team within 24 hours. If no referral is made, identify and record the alternative action and the reasons for the decision.
- If the responsible manager and member of staff disagree about reporting the concern to a third party, consult the CEO or DSL promptly for a final decision. Ensure all decisions and agreed actions are recorded within 24 hours.

Referring an Adult at Risk Safeguarding Concern

- Where safe and appropriate, explain to the adult and/or their carer that a referral will be made. Do not inform them if this could increase risk or prejudice an investigation; seek advice if unsure.
- Refer the concern to the local Adult Social Care safeguarding team or the police, sharing relevant information about the concern, known risks and wider context.
- If there is an immediate risk to the adult's safety, call 999.
- Agree and record on Lamplight the next steps, responsibilities and timescales, together with the name, role, team and direct contact details of the person spoken to. Confirm the referral by encrypted email or recorded delivery within 24 hours.
- Update your line manager or lead on the same day and record the discussion, decisions, actions and risk assessment
- If the response from Adult Social Care does not adequately address the risk, escalate the concern to your line manager for follow-up by The Children's Grief Charity.
- The Line Manager must make a record on Lamplight of all discussion/agreements and plans on the same date. The record must include the name, job title and team of the individual completing the record in accordance with the The Children's Grief Charity recording policy.

If you disagree with the decision made by the Adult Social Care team, you must follow up your concerns in writing within 24 hours and inform your line manager or Clinical Counselling Manager lead.

Learning Development & Training

All staff and those who work on our behalf are required to complete our mandatory training and other development opportunities.

Line Management Supervision, Clinical Supervision and One-to-One Meetings

Supervision plays a key role in supporting safeguarding.
Please see the Safeguarding Children's Policy for details.

Managing Risk
The Chlldren's Grief Charity has procedures in place for assessing and managing risks with regard to safeguarding children, young people and families, including vulnerable adults.

Records
All staff and those who work for or on behalf of The Children's Grief Charity understand the importance of maintaining well-kept records. They know that how information is recorded as well as stored is of the utmost importance, and that where it is suspected or believed that a child, young person or vulnerable adult may be at risk of harm, objective records must be recorded in a timely and accurate manner. The organisation has a clear policy on the management of records, confidentiality, and sharing of information, which adhere to the requirements of GDPR and the Data Protection Act 2018 (see Data Protection Policy). All staff, and those who work for or on our behalf, are clear about what information can be shared with relevant people within and outside of the organisation. All staff are aware that if they are not able to record information on Lamplight (due to a technical issue, not having a login, or any other reason), they must let a member of the safeguarding team know so they can record the incident on their behalf.

Fundraising
The Children's Grief Charity aims to comply with the Fundraising Regulator's code of fundraising practice by ensuring that we take into account the needs of any possible donor who may be in vulnerable circumstances or need extra care and support to make an informed decision. This includes not taking a donation if we know, or have good reason to believe, that a person lacks capacity to make a decision to donate, or is in vulnerable circumstances which mean they may not be able to make an informed decision at that time.

Communicating Safeguarding Responsibilities
All staff and those who work for or on behalf of The Children's Grief Charity must be aware of The Children's Grief Charity's Safeguarding Policy & Procedures, including any relevant codes of practice.
Staff must ensure that local contact numbers are accessible to all staff and those who work for or on behalf of The Children's Grief Charity.

Glossary and Definitions

The Care and support statutory guidance identifies ten types of abuse for adults at risk:
1. Physical abuse
2. Domestic violence or abuse
3. Sexual abuse
4. Psychological or emotional abuse
5. Financial or material abuse
6. Modern slavery
7. Discriminatory abuse
8. Organisational or institutional abuse
9. Neglect or acts of omission
10. Self-neglect

See SCIE website for further details about types of abuse https://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/adults/introduction/types-and-indicators-of-abuse

Adult at risk
The Care Act places a duty on local authorities and others to implement safeguarding for people who, because of issues such as dementia, learning disability, mental ill-health, brain injury (including stroke) or substance abuse, have care and support needs that may make them more vulnerable to abuse or neglect. This list is not exhaustive, but the safeguarding duty is particularly pertinent where a person may lack some mental capacity

Vulnerable adult was the previous terminology used, which is now referred to as 'adults at risk' and includes adults who:
- has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- As a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.' (Care Act 2014, section 42)

Mental Capacity Act (2005)
Mental capacity is defined within the Mental Capacity Act (2005). The Act was designed to protect and empower people who may lack the mental capacity to make their own decisions about their care and treatment. It applies to people aged 16 and over. Mental capacity relates to the ability to make decisions. Mental capacity is both decision and time specific, so someone may lack capacity for certain decisions and/or at certain times. There are 5 key principles outlined in the Act which are:

1. Presumption of capacity
2. Support to make a decision
3. Ability to make unwise decisions
4. Best interest
5. Least restrictive

The last 2 principles only apply where someone has been assessed to not have the mental capacity for specific decisions. It is important to assume that every adult has capacity to make decisions about their treatment, care and their life. It is only through an assessment of capacity that a decision can be made if the person lacks capacity around particular decisions. Someone has capacity if they can:
• understand information relevant to the decision in question
• retain that information
• use the information to make their decision
• communicate a decision.

LADO
Every local authority has a statutory responsibility to have a Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) who is responsible for coordinating the response to concerns that an adult who works with children may have caused them or could cause them harm. The LADO duty does not apply to adults at risk though some areas do have adult LADO's who have a similar responsibility where there are concerns that an adult who works with adults at risks may have caused harm.

MARAC
Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC) is a meeting where information is shared on the highest risk domestic abuse cases between representatives of local police, health, child protection, housing practitioners, Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), probation and other specialists from the statutory and voluntary sectors. The representatives discuss options for increasing the safety of the victim and turn these into a coordinated action plan. The primary focus of the MARAC is to safeguard the adult victim. The MARAC will also make links with others to safeguard children and manage the behaviour of the perpetrator. The victim does not attend the meeting but is represented by an IDVA who speaks on their behalf.

IDVA-
The main purpose of independent domestic violence advisors (IDVA) is to address the safety of victims at high risk of harm from intimate partners, ex-partners or family members to secure their safety and the safety of their children. Serving as a victim's primary point of contact, IDVAs normally work with their clients from the point of crisis to assess the level of risk, discuss the range of suitable options and develop safety plans.

MASH
A Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) brings key professionals together to facilitate early, better quality information sharing, analysis and decision-making, to safeguard vulnerable children and young people more effectively. How the MASH works may vary from area to area and in some areas it may also include the safeguarding of adults at risk as well as children.

National Safeguarding Board
This was established in June 2026 in response to Baroness Casey's safeguarding recommendations. Its core priorities include updating Care Act statutory guidance on safeguarding (specifically addressing homelessness, substance abuse and traditional safeguarding) conducting an urgent legal framework review and strengthening national oversight of Local Safeguarding Adults Boards.
Statutory Guidance

A clear and consistent understanding of safeguarding concepts and terminology is essential to the work of The Children's Grief Charity. The Children's Grief Charity Safeguarding Adults Policy must be followed in line with:

- The Care Act (2014) and associated statutory guidance (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance#safeguarding-1)
- Mental Capacity Act (2005) Including, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguarding (2009) pertaining to care homes and hospitals.
- Domestic Abuse Act (2021)
- Modern Slavery Act (2015)
- The Serious Crimes Act (2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children & Young People (2018)
- Protection of Freedoms Act (2012)
- Local inter-agency procedures and local Safeguarding Adults Partnerships and protocols, including any protocols related to Domestic Abuse.
- Equalities Act (2010)
- BACP Ethical Framework for the Counselling Professions Code of Ethics

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