

Information for those involved in the Adult Support and Protection Process



**Don't ignore it
Report it!**

Everyone has the right to live their life safe from harm.

Most adults are able to live their lives safely. However, for some, their ability to keep safe and to protect their wellbeing, rights, property and finances will be more of a challenge.

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 gives councils particular duties if they know or believe an adult is at risk of harm.

Social Work, Health, Police and other agencies work together to prevent and respond to situations where someone is being harmed.

If someone has concerns about you, a Social Worker will talk to you. They may involve your GP, health workers, the Police, family members or carers – if necessary.

Most people can be offered help informally. For example:

- making sure you have the support you need
- finding other people for you to talk to
- helping you plan ways to keep yourself safe
- talking to the person who is harming you

If you don't think you are at risk of being harmed and you are sure you are able to protect yourself it is unlikely anything else will happen.

What happens when harm is reported?

A Social Worker will visit you and talk to you about your situation. They will want to know about the risks you are facing and what you would like to happen. They may suggest you talk to an advocate. An advocate is an independent person who can support you to think about options and let you decide for yourself. The Social Worker may suggest that a case conference is the best way to support and protect you.

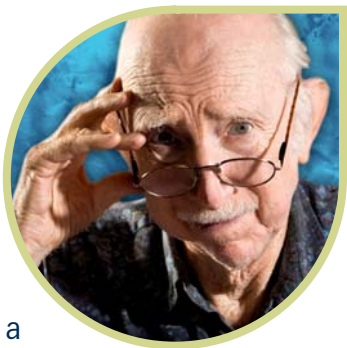


What is a case conference?

A case conference is a meeting involving you and everyone who is concerned about you. The meeting will discuss:

- the harm you are experiencing
- who is causing it
- what can be done to stop it
- how to keep you safe in the future

It can be hard to talk in a room full of people, so before the meeting, your Social Worker will explain to you who will be invited and what will be discussed.



The meeting will decide if a protection plan is required. You will have the right to:

- attend or not attend the meeting
- agree or disagree with what is being suggested
- have your views recorded



You will be given a copy of the decisions taken at the meeting

What is a protection plan?

A protection plan is an agreed plan of what help and support you need to keep safe from harm. You will be involved in your plan, and with your agreement, your family or friends. The plan can also involve others, for example, staff from Social Work, Housing, Police, Health and care services. Your plan will be reviewed regularly. If it is not working, or your situation changes another case conference will be arranged.

If required, the Council can use its legal powers to apply for a protection order. A protection order can:

- stop someone having contact with you
- move you to a safer place
- ensure you are getting the support you need

Remember, if you are finding it difficult to keep yourself safe, it is important you tell someone about it.

For assistance contact Social Work Resources: 0303 123 1000.

3 point criteria

The Act defines adults at risk as individuals, aged 16 years or over, who:

- are unable to **safeguard themselves**, their property, rights or other interests, and
- are at risk of **harm**, and
- because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, are more **vulnerable to being harmed** than adults who are not so affected.



The presence of one particular condition does not automatically mean an adult is an 'adult at risk'. For an adult to be at risk in terms of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007, the adult must meet all three points above.

For further advice or information contact Social Work Resources on Phone: 0303 123 1008

Immediate Danger contact the Police
Phone: **999**

Police non-emergency
Phone: **101**

For medical assistance, contact the persons GP or NHS 24
Phone: **0845 242424**

This leaflet was given to you by:

Name	
Agency	
Contact details	

If this person is not available please ask to speak to the following manager

Name	
Agency	
Contact details	

Out of office hours

If you need to speak to someone urgently please phone the Emergency Social Work Service and ask for the duty worker.

Emergency Social Work Service

Phone: 0303 123 1008

www.adultprotectionsouthlanarkshire.org.uk

If you need this information in another language or format, please contact us to discuss how we can best meet your needs.

Phone: 01698 445787

Email: maureen.bridges@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk