



**safeguarding
adults at risk**
a cumbria partnership

Self Neglect Guidance

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Cumbria Safeguarding Adults Board

Self Neglect Guidance

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1. Introduction/Background

This covers a wide range of presentations including neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes hoarding. Partnership working can be a positive means of addressing issues of self-neglect which are often complex and challenging situations for all involved. Involvement with the individual concerned is crucial.

Cumbria County Council committed to a multi-agency approach to safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect and working in close cooperation with those agencies who are partners in the Cumbria Safeguarding Adults Board (CSAB).

This document provides the procedure on how to respond when concerns of self-neglect have been identified.

This guidance should be read in conjunction with the Self Neglect Policy document.

All partner agencies must take all reasonable steps to address the concerns when they have been made aware themselves. Where this has proved to be unsuccessful Adult Social Care and partners should follow this procedure. There should be operational procedures within each of those organisations to provide internal governance mechanisms.

Reference to the information sharing requirements is referenced in the CSAB multi agency procedures.

It is important to note that where children are identified then a referral should be immediately be made to Children's Services on 0333 240 1727.

2. Procedure

Where the intervention of a single organisation has not been successful in addressing the concern or the management of the risk itself then the next step will be to confirm this with your manager and the use a multi-agency approach. This will enable the relevant CSAB agencies to address the concerns directly within a multi-disciplinary framework. This arrangement would be undertaken by the organisation that has raised the issue with the CSAB partner(s). The role of that organisation here is to:

- Ensure the relevant partners are invited to address the concern.
- Chair the meeting.
- Provide a clear summary prior to the meeting for the attendees.
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities.
- Record the outcomes and plan of action.
- Arrange for any further meeting.

The purpose of the meeting is to enable a joint decision with the partner agencies.

- They will determine if the individual poses a significant risk to their own health and wellbeing/ and /or that of others.
- Consider whether formal mental capacity assessments are indicated.
- Consider how risks are to be managed and by which agency/s.
- Assess how and /or whether the individual will engage in the addressing the concerns.
- Risk Assessment guidance is available in 'InTouch', and tools self-populate from within individual customers IAS numbers.

The outcome from the multi-agency meeting should be a clear recommendation on how to progress.

- Either the situation is **low** risk and then individual can be supported within the existing framework; or
- The situation is **high** risk and there is a requirement to undertake further assessments which may need to be undertaken by other CSAB partners.

Multi Agency Meeting outcomes:

Low Risk:

The individual has capacity, but is unwilling to engage with CSAB partner agencies and the risk is assessed as **low** then:

- Record and evidence the decision made including risk assessment, this includes where no further involvement is necessary.
- Record disagreements with outcome decisions and escalation process to resolve.
- If circumstances changes advise all partner agencies to escalate the case proportionally.

The individual is unable to make decisions that affect how they live their life but the risk is assessed as low:

- Undertake an MCA best interest's decision and agree the actions required to implement the agreed plan.
- Agree a plan to address future concerns where decision specific mental capacity/ and or needs change.

High Risk:

- If the individual has capacity, and is unwilling to engage with CSAB partner agencies and the risk.
- If the individual does not have capacity to make decisions to protect themselves and is unable to engage with CSAB partners.

And in both circumstances the risk is assessed as **high** the process will be to:

- Agree a clear action plan to respond to the immediate risks posed to the health and wellbeing of the individual;

And

- Refer the concern of the individual to the Adult Social Care (if not already involved), to consider if further inquiries under Section 42 of the Care Act 2014 are required.
- The situation of the individual will be considered on a case by case basis.
- Evidence of adherence to the above processes will assist in the timely decision making response by the operational team manager making the decision to convene a Strategy meeting under the CSAB Safeguarding Adults Procedures.