

SAFECHOICE

Keeping you up to date with safeguarding news and tips

Autumn 2021

FREE Safeguarding training

Have you signed up for our sector specific safeguarding training? We have introduced new advanced level sessions with sector focused content on safeguarding policies and practices. Book now through the Learning Hub, or contact your Skills Coach for more details.

Reporting safeguarding concerns - do you know the legislation has changed?

Have you got a gut feeling that something just doesn't seem right, or you have concerns but are not 100% sure?

Following the recent changes in legislation you must report your concerns to safeguarding teams, as this could build a picture of concerns through multiple events and reports which could prevent an incident. Not reporting concerns could be deemed as neglectful or the failure to act to do something could result in an incident that may have been prevented.

Key facts

- 63 children under the age of 5 every year are killed by a family member which could have been prevented if concerns had been raised
- On average victims of domestic abuse will have experienced 50 incidents before they seek help

Childcare focus - peer on peer abuse

Martin Keightley, our Childcare Designated Safeguarding Lead discussed peer on peer abuse.


What is peer on peer abuse?

"Peer on peer abuse is sexual abuse that happens between individuals of similar age or stage of development. Indicators may be physical or behavioural, and can happen in a range of settings, including School, home, online or in public."



Adult care focus - organisational abuse

"In recent weeks, the safeguarding team have received a number of safeguarding queries that have ultimately been referred to statutory services under the guise of 'organisational abuse'."



Organisational abuse (historically referred to as institutional abuse) includes neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting (such as a hospital or care home), or in relation to care provided in one's own home. Organisational abuse may range from one off incidents to ongoing ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

The following could be possible indicators of institutional abuse – however, it is important not to jump to the wrong conclusions too quickly:

- No flexibility in bedtime routine and/or deliberate waking
- People left on the commode or toilet for long periods of time
- Inappropriate care of possessions, clothing and living area
- Lack of personal clothes and belongings
- Un-homely or stark living environments
- Deprived environmental conditions and lack of stimulation
- Inappropriate use of medical procedures e.g. enemas, catheterisation
- 'Batch care' - lack of individual care programmes
- Illegal confinement or restrictions
- Inappropriate use of power or control
- People referred to, or spoken to with disrespect
- Inflexible services based on convenience of the provider rather than the person receiving services
- Inappropriate physical intervention
- Service user removed from the home or establishment, without discussion with other appropriate people or agencies, because staff are unable to manage the behaviours

The pandemic has placed a number of restrictions upon carers that in turn, directly impacted some of the most vulnerable persons within society. With restrictions lifting and a new normality forming, it is everyone's responsibility to safeguard others. If you have concerns of organisational abuse, please contact your Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Further information

If you have any questions or concerns related to safeguarding, please contact our 24/7 support line on 0330 0183 531 or email safeguardingreporting@gpstrategies.com. You can also find more information on our website www.gpstl-apprenticeships.co.uk/safeguarding/.

Sharing confidential information

If you wish to share information with GP Strategies staff members, and the staff member feels that what you tell them puts you or any other young person at risk of harm; they will have to pass it on to the designated person who may have to take it further to support you or others and keep everyone safe. Please be assured that they will only tell those who need to know.

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is protection from abuse, maltreatment, maintaining good general health, and mental wellbeing, and most importantly responding to concerns by taking action and reporting any issues. You all have the right to feel safe where you learn and work. Other people should not hurt or abuse you in any way or threaten to hurt or abuse you.

Why do we need to safeguard?

We all have a responsibility to ensure the safety, wellbeing and protection of those around us, and during the Covid-19 crisis, there has been additional pressures on families and workers. Abuse can take many different forms and we all have a duty of care that extends to ensure that we understand the signs of abuse, and how we raise concerns.

What can I do if I'm worried about a child?

If you are worried about a child, you should report this to a senior person onsite, or to your GP Strategies safeguarding contact who will inform the designated lead.

What can I do if I'm worried about an adult?

We have a responsibility to safeguard adults who are care and support needs, are experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect and are unable to protect themselves because of their care and support needs. Many of these adults are either cared for by family members, or by residential and nursing care services.

Useful contacts

GP Strategies Safeguarding Support Line

T: 0330 0183 531 (available 24/7)

E: safeguardingreporting@gpstrategies.com

ChildLine

T: 0800 1111 (free) - the ChildLine number won't show up on your phone bill if you call from a landline or from most mobile networks

Action on Elder Abuse

T: 0808 808 8141

Action Fraud (Financial):

T: 0300 123 2040

Mental health useful contacts

Mind Infoline

T: 0300 123 3393 (9am-6pm Mon-Fri) - for confidential mental health information services

Samaritans

T: 116 123 - providing confidential, non-judgemental emotional support

Mental Health Foundation

W: www.mentalhealth.org.uk - offers a range of free guidance and advice

Carers Direct

T: 0203 904 4520

Carers Trust

W: <https://carers.org/help-and-info/carers-services-near-you>

GP Strategies – committed to equality and valuing diversity

