

Professional disagreements in adult safeguarding practice

Key messages



Hammersmith & Fulham Safeguarding Adults Board

1

Principles of Making Safeguarding Personal

In all of our work we should be seeking to build a team around the person and ensuring that their voice is heard, ensuring that their views and wishes are informing responses.



Establishing a multi-agency response

Professionals should seek to hold a professionals meeting as part of usual practice to discuss levels of risk and agree a response. We all have a responsibility to act on our concerns and ensure action is being taken to protect an adult at risk of abuse or neglect, and these multi-agency spaces are opportunity to respectfully raise disagreements of opinion and seek resolution.

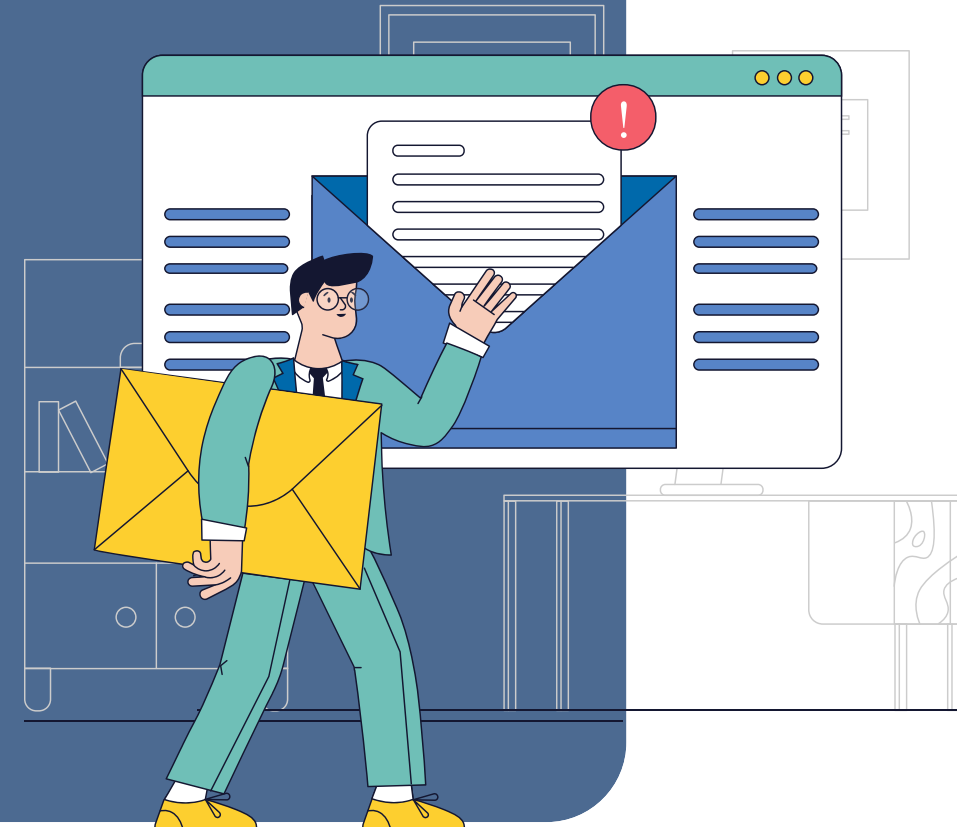
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3

Recognising when to escalate

If resolution has not been possible, practitioners should seek to escalate according to the H&F SAB Escalation Policy. This could include instances of disagreement on decision to conduct an adult safeguarding enquiry, lack of engagement, or misunderstanding of roles and responsibilities.



4

Timely resolution

Professionals should seek to resolve all disagreements in a timely manner to ensure that the adult at risk is protected from harm and that disputes are resolved at the earliest stage possible.



5

Responding to immediate risks

We must never leave an adult at risk of immediate harm whilst the disagreement is being escalated and plans should be put in place to manage risk

Where risks are high, referrals should be made to relevant multi-agency panels as appropriate.



Find out more

Visit the H&F Safeguarding Adults Board website to see the full Escalation Policy for Adult Safeguarding disagreements.

The website also has other useful tools to support you in practice, include risk assessment tools and multi-agency meeting templates.

