

Raising safeguarding adults concerns



In June 2024, the Quality in Practice subgroup completed an audit of ten safeguarding concerns which did not proceed to enquiry. This audit identified a range of themes for further reflection. This briefing focuses on tips for professionals who are raising safeguarding concerns.

1

Understanding care and support needs

When raising a safeguarding adults concern, referrers should seek to be clear on what the adult's care and support needs are and how this impacts their ability to protect themselves. This could include an explanation of how their care and support needs affects day-to-day life, rather than just stating a diagnosis.



Communicating risk

2

Referrers should include as much detail as possible and clearly communicate the level of risk.



One referral considered in the audit focused on one very specific issue (ability to manage bills) but did not provide any details on the neglect of the home environment that would have given wider context and supported a shared understanding of the risk.

Tip: The H&F SAB has self-neglect risk assessment templates that can help you to think about the wider risks and communicate concerns more clearly.

3

Being clear on outcomes

When raising a safeguarding concern we should also reflect on what is working well, what support is currently in place and where the gaps are. This also includes thinking about what further support might be put in place.

Wherever possible, this should be done with the adult to understand how they view the risk and what they would like to see happen to keep them safe.



Your involvement doesn't end once you've made a referral

4

All partner agencies are accountable for delivering their part of the adult safeguarding process to a high standard, and raising an adult safeguarding concern is only one element of our response to risk. As professionals, we should always seek to maintain communication and work together to support adults at risk.



Whilst the level of feedback you receive may vary depending on your involvement, you can seek confirmation as to whether a decision has been made to proceed with enquiry or if an alternative response is advised. If you do not agree with the decision to not continue with the safeguarding process and you remain worried about someone, you can respectfully challenge this decision and escalate within your agency.

Summary

We all have a role to play in safeguarding adults at risk. By ensuring accurate information is shared at point of raising safeguarding concern we can improve responses to adults at risk.

Remember: Wherever possible you should discuss your concerns with the adult and seek their consent before raising a safeguarding concern.

