

TOP 20 TIPS TO MAKE YOUR AREA SAFER FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS

These tips are designed to help you complete your self assessment. They have been compiled by the ADASS National Policy Group, and are a distillation of local, regional and national experience of implementing and improving safeguarding

1. Refer to your annual safeguarding report and say how it is developing safeguarding across your area.
2. Say how you are quality assuring safeguarding, refer to any processes / Quality Assurance Framework that you have in place or are developing.
3. Say how you involve service users in service delivery and planning – is there a citizens' forum/reference group? – What outcomes are they producing that shape and change processes?
4. Say how your SAB obtains a meaningful contribution from service users and informal carers.
5. Explain and evidence the governance of your SAB: how does it relate to council's scrutiny function and elected members? How does it relate to the governance of partner organisations?
6. Explain how you map the training needs of all relevant organisations within your area. How are you organising and delivering training to relevant people? How do you ensure that the training results in good quality practice?
7. Explain and evidence how you ensure that local practice matches local procedures.
8. Say when your safeguarding procedures were agreed and when last reviewed – what is the process for keeping them up to date? (N.B. everybody is waiting for "No Secrets 2" before they review their procedures)
9. If you have had a peer review or other form of assessment say what you learned from it and how you are putting it into practice.
10. Say how you deal with risk – evidence any risk assessment / management procedures and say how they are making a difference.

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11. Say how you ensure consistent attendance and active engagement from SAB members.
12. Say how safeguarding links with domestic violence.
13. Say how adult safeguarding works with safeguarding children to ensure smooth transitions and shared learning.
14. Say how your area interfaces with regional and national networks and the positive outcomes these links produce.
15. Say how you are safeguarding people with limited or no capacity, eg advocacy, IMCA, DOLS, etc.
16. Say how you organise the safeguarding service – has it got the right level of capacity, skills, and support and range of workers? If it's facing excess demand then say what you are doing to build its capacity.
17. Say how you are working with NHS commissioners and providers to ensure a consistent approach to alert referral path, response and decision making.
18. Say what you're doing to raise public awareness and make it easy to report possible abuse.
19. Say how personalisation plans ensure vulnerable people are safe.
20. Say if you have done anything specifically to safeguard people from financial abuse.

Footnotes

1. All of these tips are aimed at the local authority as the lead agency but refer to all multi-agency partners.
2. These are not a replacement for CQC guidance but aim to distil operational experience of safeguarding.