

18.1 Purpose

This guidance has been developed to help practitioners to decide when safeguarding procedures should be used when someone dies.

18.2 When safeguarding procedures should be used when someone dies?

If Safeguarding Adults Procedures are already in progress

Safeguarding procedures must be completed if they have begun before someone dies. Someone passing away during a referral or investigation should not result in the process stopping. It is important to complete the process and arrive at an outcome.

If Safeguarding Adults procedures have NOT began

Safeguarding procedures should be started when a person dies if abuse is suspected as being a contributing factor and:

- there are lessons to be learnt
or
- there is a possibility other people are or may be affected.

18.3 Things to consider when safeguarding after someone dies

- Has a criminal offence occurred?
- Involve the Coroner
- Consider if anyone else may be affected
- What can we learn from this incident?
- Secure documentation as soon as possible
- Involving families will require extreme sensitivity but they must be involved
- How long after someone dies should we consider implementing safeguarding? This will need to be decided on an individual basis.

Safeguarding procedures will:

- ✓ help ensure Multi-Agency working and sharing of information
- ✓ enable the Care Quality team to be involved where the victim is a person self funding their care and support
- ✓ provide a framework
- ✓ ensure other possible victims are identified and safeguarded

18.4 How should safeguarding proceed?

- The referral should be logged against the individual who died
- Information gathering should process as per the procedures
- Strategy discussion or meeting should take place as per the procedures
- An investigation should proceed as per the procedures if abuse is suspected
- The Case Conference process can be used to conclude the investigation, determine the outcome, identify any learning or make a decision to proceed to a Large Scale Investigation
- A Large Scale Investigation should be implemented if evidence is available that meets the criteria for a Large Scale Investigation

18.5 Recording

The Careassess screens for the individual how has passed away must be completed with the full details of the Safeguarding Adults process.