



Adults at Risk Policy

Policy Title

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Section 1 – Policy Intentions

Gloucestershire Constabulary Adults at Risk Policy

It is the policy of Gloucestershire Constabulary to work together with the Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adults Board and other partner agencies to safeguard and promote the welfare of all adults at risk.

Living a life that is free from harm and abuse is a fundamental right of every person and we are committed to assisting adults who may be at risk of harm within our communities by helping to identify them, working in partnership with other agencies to ensure they receive the help and support they need, protecting them from anti-social behaviour and investigating allegations of abuse against them.

Section 1 – Policy wording

Duty to Safeguard Adults at Risk

The Care Act 2014 defines safeguarding as *protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect*.

An Adult at Risk is defined by the Department of Health as;

‘a person aged 18 years or older who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness; and who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation’.

Safeguarding involves people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action.

Abuse can take the form of physical, sexual, financial, neglect, emotional, psychological and discriminatory nature. It also includes modern slavery.

Gloucestershire Constabulary recognise that the police are responsible for carrying out completely and exclusively any criminal investigation in a case of suspected injury or harm to an adult at risk or other vulnerable person, the investigation of crimes against adults at risk is as important as any other serious investigation and we shall treat it as such.



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The responsibility to investigate suspected abuse of adults at risk is shared between the Public Protection Bureau Investigation Team and CID.

Allegations of assaults committed towards adults at risk in care settings or by those in a position of trust or with a responsibility of care towards the adult will be dealt with by a dedicated team of officers committed to the investigation and safeguarding of adults.

The Constabulary has a local guidance and procedural document to assist all staff in identifying and dealing with allegations of abuse, this is available for all staff in Section 2. The Authorised Professional Practice (APP) from the College of policing is also available [here](#).

We shall ensure that officers investigating the abuse of adults at risk are sufficiently trained to do so and thereby can make good decisions to keep them safe from harm.

It is our policy to work in partnership with other agencies to;

- Identify adults at risk within the community and accurately assess the risks to them, making appropriate referrals to partner agencies.
- Take any immediate action necessary to intervene and effectively safeguard adults at risk.
- Share information and participate in multi-agency decision making meetings regarding adult at risk concerns to provide the best outcome for that adult.
- Fully investigate criminal offences and hold offenders to account through the criminal justice system.

Section 2 – Procedural guides

Copy and paste any relevant procedural guides into this section



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Section 3 - Relevant Legislation: (Human rights/diversity/Health & Safety/any other specifics)

Human Rights Act - <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1998/42/contents>

Care Act 2014 - <http://www.scie.org.uk/care-act-2014/safeguarding-adults/>

Section 4 - Related References:

Gloucestershire Safeguarding Adult Board -
<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/gsab/index.aspx?articleid=109960>

The Care Act 2014 - [Care Act 2014](#)

Section 5 - Identification, Monitoring and Review

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Previous policies can be found with the continuous improvement team.