

7-MINUTE BRIEFING

1. Safeguarding during a pandemic

Safeguarding means protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about 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 an adult’s wellbeing is promoted including (where appropriate) having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action.
Care Act 2014 Statutory Guidance 14.7

See the attached leaflet for comprehensive information on all points.

7. Consider a face-to-face appointment

To discuss further that day wherever possible if you have concerns that the virtual meeting hasn’t eased your worries, the person may feel able to discuss abuse if alone in a consultation in a safe setting. (as long as COVID secure). Refer to the appropriate service (Adult Safeguarding, CASS, MARAC, Police, Fire Service, Ambulance etc).

6. Use your observations

Consider what you see as well as hear. Is the environment dangerous/Hoarding/Fire risk. Can you see any obvious injuries? Is the person looking to someone else before answering? Any concerning background noise, e.g. someone else talking as if giving answers? Remember cuckooing, hoarding and honour based violence.

5. Consider video

Consultations can be really effective and are a real opportunity to pick up possible indicators that things are not well. Check at the start of the consultation whether it is safe for them to talk. Do you know who else is present in the room? Are they someone you recognise? Check if the patient is happy to proceed with the consultation if other people are around. How does the room look? Is there any obvious evidence of alcohol or drug use? Are there any obvious environmental risks, particularly if there are young children in the home?

See the attached leaflet for comprehensive information on all points.

2. Covid increases risk

This brief recognises the importance of safeguarding, recognises increased risks of abuse during COVID-19 and living with COVID-19 in our shadow. As a practitioner, you are facing unprecedented challenges to support and safeguard those at risk of harm/abuse. It is important you consider how you can continue to safeguarding when face-to-face consultation has reduced.

3. Before a consultation

Consider checking the records. Are there safeguarding flags or alerts recorded? There is often a significant amount of information about individuals available in the records which could help to identify those with safeguarding issues. This may pick up: Substance misuse, Domestic abuse, Issues of ‘was not brought/did not attend’.

See the attached leaflet for comprehensive information on all points.

4. Consider consultations over the phone

Check at the start of the consultation whether it is safe to talk. Picking up possible indicators of safeguarding concerns can be challenging over a phone call. You can’t see what is going on, you don’t know if an individual is being harmed; however, there are things to look for.

See the attached leaflet for comprehensive information on all points.

