**[https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014/care-act-easements-guidance-for-local-authorities#annex-d-safeguarding-guidance](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014/care-act-easements-guidance-for-local-authorities%22%20%5Cl%20%22annex-d-safeguarding-guidance)**

**Annex D: Safeguarding Guidance**

Adult safeguarding is working with adults with care and support needs to support them to keep safe from abuse or neglect. It is an important part of what many public services do, and a statutory responsibility of Local Authorities.

Safeguarding adults remains a statutory duty of Local Authorities to keep the most vulnerable safe from abuse or neglect. The Coronavirus Act 2020 does not affect the safeguarding protections in the Care Act, particularly at Section 42 of the Care Act. It is vital that Local Authorities continue to offer the same level of safeguarding oversight and application of Section 42. However, it is also important that safeguarding teams are proportionate in their responses and mindful of the pressure social care providers are likely to be under.

The Government recognises that safeguarding concerns and referrals may increase during the Covid-19 outbreak, with more people receiving support and support needs changing, which may prompt concerns. Safeguarding is everyone’s business, so it is important that we remain alert to possible abuse or neglect concerns. Local Authorities, social care providers, the health voluntary sector and our communities must continue work to prevent and reduce the risk of harm to people with care and support needs, including those affected by Covid-19.

The immediate safety of the adult at risk and their carers must always be prioritised but where decisions are taken to prioritise responses to safeguarding concerns, the Principal Social Worker/Safeguarding Lead will advise on any changes to the consideration of safeguarding types and referrals. Principal Social Workers must work with their safeguarding leads to review any local policies or procedures that may be unduly time consuming or place an undue burden on care providers during this time. For example, Local Authorities may make changes to those local processes and timescales that are not mandated by legislation. In addition, Principal Social Workers should reassure themselves that Section 42 decision making is proportionate and that safeguarding teams are actively communicating with partners. Any such decision will have been agreed by the Director of Adult Social Services.

The [Ethical Framework for Adult Social Care](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-ethical-framework-for-adult-social-care/responding-to-covid-19-the-ethical-framework-for-adult-social-care) provides support to ongoing response planning and decision-making to ensure that ample consideration is given to a core set of ethical values and principles when organising and delivering social care for adults, including for safeguarding.

All providers of adult social care or health care have a key role in safeguarding adults in their care, and all agencies have a duty to ensure adults with care and support needs are not placed at risk of abuse or neglect by delays in care and support planning.

Employers must ensure that staff, including volunteers, are trained in recognising the signs and symptoms of abuse or neglect, how to respond, and where to go for advice and assistance.

**Annex E: Link to the Coronavirus Act 2020 Explanatory Notes**

<https://publications.parliament.uk/pa/bills/lbill/58-01/110/5801110en.pdf>

[Contents](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-changes-to-the-care-act-2014/care-act-easements-guidance-for-local-authorities#contents)