



**Durham
Safeguarding Adults
Partnership**

What happens after abuse is reported?

**How we protect adults from abuse in County
Durham**

Easy read booklet

**ABUSE
THINK IT,
OR
SEE IT,
REPORT
IT**



What is in this booklet

Page

Welcome	3
Tell us about abuse	5
When we hear about abuse what happens next	6
Safeguarding adults	7
Going to meetings	9
If the police are involved	10
After a police investigation what happens next	11
Going to Court	13
Getting the support you need	14
Tell us what you feel about the plan to keep you safe	15
Phone numbers to report abuse	17

Our thank you

Some people helped us with our empowerment work.
They made the colourful posters on the front page.
Some other people read this booklet while we wrote it.
They helped us to make it better.

Thank you.

Welcome

Hello. This is our booklet about **what happens after abuse is reported.**

If someone has reported that you have been abused or you have reported it, this booklet will tell you what could happen next.

You can read this booklet on your own or you might want someone to help you.

You can read the booklet all at once or you can stop and come back to the booklet later. If you stop, you can put a circle round the page number where you stop.



Reading about abuse and what happens next could make you upset.

Even if you can read this booklet on your own, you might want to read with someone who can support you. You can talk about what happened to you with them.

What happens after abuse is reported?

There are 4 booklets



- **Stop Abuse Now**
- **Staying Safe**
- **What happens after abuse is reported** (this booklet)
- **Being safe using your phone and social media**

The 4 booklets are all on our website on the training page.

Visit www.safeguardingdurhamadults.info



Tell us about abuse

If abuse is happening to you, or you are frightened of someone tell someone you trust. If someone tells you they have been abused, tell someone you trust.

They will call Durham County Council Social Care Direct to report the abuse.

You can call Social Care Direct yourself if you are being abused or you know someone who is being abused.

Staff at Social Care Direct will listen to you carefully. Please do not worry, your details will be kept private.



When we hear about abuse what happens next

If you tell us that someone has abused you, Social Care Direct staff will talk with you to find out what happened.

We will act to stop the abuse and make a plan to keep you safe.

If we think you might get badly hurt right now we will act quickly to protect you.



Safeguarding adults

Safeguarding adults means stopping the abuse and making a plan to keep you safe.

We will have a safeguarding adults meeting to agree who we need to talk with, and how to support you.

We may need to talk with you and with other people like your family, support worker, or the police.

The people at the meeting will make a plan to stop the abuse, neglect or harm.



Making a plan to keep you safe

The police might say that what happened is a crime.

The police will **investigate** the crime. **Investigate** means find out what happened.

When the police finish the investigation we may have a meeting to plan how to stop the abuse happening again.

If the police say it is not a crime they will not do an investigation. We will speak with you.

The person who speaks with you might be a care manager, a social worker, a safeguarding officer, or care coordinator.

We will ask you what happened, what happened next, and then what happened right to the end.

We will ask you how you feel and what you want to happen next.



Going to meetings

You should be invited to the safeguarding adults meetings we have about you. We will ask you what you want to happen in the plan to keep you safe.

You can take someone with you to the meeting. Or you can ask someone to go for you.

Ask someone you trust like a family member, support worker, or **advocate**. An **advocate** is a person who speaks up for you.

You do not have to go to safeguarding adults meetings if you do not want to. That is okay.

Sometimes we cannot invite you to the meeting about you because we need to talk about somebody else in the meeting.

The meetings are **confidential**. **Confidential** means only the people at the meeting know what was said.



If the police are involved

The police will be involved if they think the abuse was a crime.

You will not be in trouble for telling the police what happened.

The police will talk to the person who abused you. The person who abused you is the **suspect**. **Suspect** means person who police think did a crime.

Durham Police has special officers to support adults who have been abused. These police officers do not wear uniforms.



After a police investigation what happens next

After a police investigation 3 things could happen.

- 1 The suspect could be **charged** with a **criminal offence**.

Charged means told in writing the police think the suspect did the crime. **Criminal offence** means a person has broken a law.

If the suspect is charged they will be taken to **Court**. **Court** means the place where hard decisions are made.

The Court will hear about the crime. The Court will decide if the suspect broke the law.

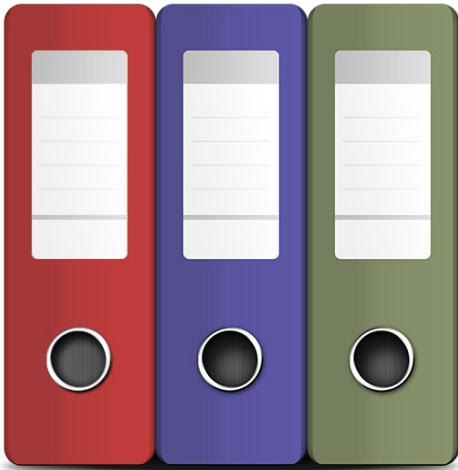
It could be many months before the Court hears about the crime.



After a police investigation what happens next

2

Or the suspect could be given a **caution** by the police.



Caution means the police keep a written record of the crime and what happened.

If the suspect does another crime the caution will be looked at and may be added to the new crime.

3

Or no action may be taken.



No action might be because there is not enough **evidence** to charge the suspect or to give a caution. **Evidence** means proof.

An example could be someone saw you being abused or took a photo of the abuse.

Going to Court

If you are asked to go to Court you or your advocate or the police can ask for **special measures**. **Special measures** mean changes to make the Court nicer for you.

An example could be

- The judge takes off his or her wig
- You can have an **intermediary**. An **intermediary** is a person to support you in Court
- Screens are put up in Court so that you do not see the suspect
- You tell what happened while you are in a different room or building and are filmed. Then you do not have to speak in Court. The film will be shown in Court



Getting the support you need

You may need extra support to talk about what has happened and how you feel. That is okay.

These are the people who could give you extra support

- Doctor
- Psychologist
- Nurse
- Social worker
- Care coordinator
- Counsellor
- Advocate
- Independent Sexual Violence Advisor or ISVA



Tell us what you feel about the plan to keep you safe

We want to know what you feel about the plan to keep you safe. Telling us will help us improve safeguarding adults.

You could be happy with what was said in the safeguarding adults meeting. Or you could be not happy with what was said in the meeting. Or you might have something else to say.

You can tell your social worker, the safeguarding officer, or care coordinator.



Tell us what you feel about the plan to keep you safe

The Ask Listen Do website can help you. Tap on

<https://www.speakup.org.uk/asklistendo>

If you tell us the plan to keep you safe was poor or was not fair we will look at it again. If you are not happy with what we say next you can **make a complaint**. **Make a complaint** means tell us what you are not happy about. The Ask Listen Do website has a form you can use. It is okay to make a complaint.

You can tell your social worker, the safeguarding officer, care coordinator, family or a friend that you want to make a complaint.

We will look at your complaint. If we find that you are right and the plan to keep you safe was poor or was not fair, we will say sorry and try to put it right.



Phone numbers to report abuse

If you are in danger call **Durham Police** on **999** first before calling Social Care Direct.

If it is not an emergency you can call **Durham Police non-emergency number 101**.

Call **Durham County Council Social Care Direct** on **03000 26 79 79**.

