

# SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE ADULTS

An overview of expectations relating to  
Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults  
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# THE CURRENT LEGISLATION

- ◉ There are currently two pieces of legislation that outline the expectations relating to Child Protection:
  - ◉ The Children Act 1989, and
  - ◉ The Children Act 2004.
  
- ◉ Vulnerable Adults are protected by a whole range of legislation : Equalities Act 2010, Mental Health Act, Mental Capacity Act, Laws on Assaults and theft etc. etc.

# CHILD PROTECTION

It's a piece of cake!

Legislation

Working Together  
to Safeguard  
Children 2010 and  
2013  
[www.dfe.gov.uk](http://www.dfe.gov.uk)

Staffs. County  
Council  
Safeguarding  
Children Board  
Procedures

What to do if  
you are worried  
a child is being  
abused  
[www.dfe.gov.uk](http://www.dfe.gov.uk)

Stafford Borough  
Council Policy and  
Procedures

Children Acts 1989 and 2004

# VULNERABLE ADULTS



# WHO IS A CHILD, WHO IS “VULNERABLE”?

- A child is anyone under the age of 18 years, (can be 19 years for a “looked after” child)
- A vulnerable adult can be anyone over the age of 18, who has a physical or sensory impairment, learning difficulty or a mental health problem, and who may be unable to protect themselves from harm or abuse. Many frail or confused older people are especially vulnerable.

Staffordshire and S-o-T Partnership for the Protection of Vulnerable Adults.

# ONE FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCE

There is a significant difference between the action we can take when protecting children and when protecting adults.

What do you think that difference is?

# WHOSE JOB IS IT TO PROTECT?

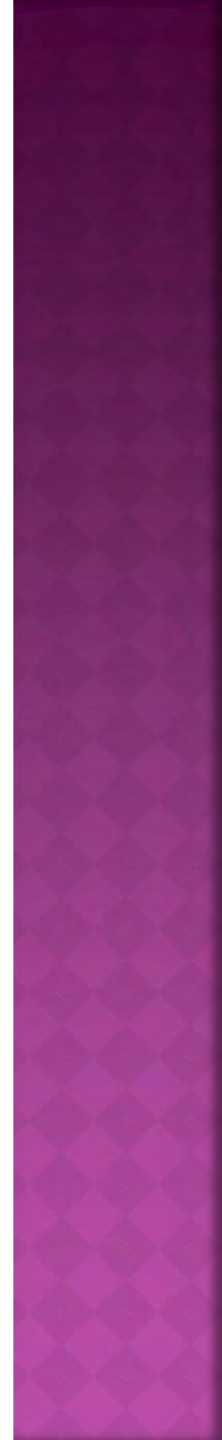
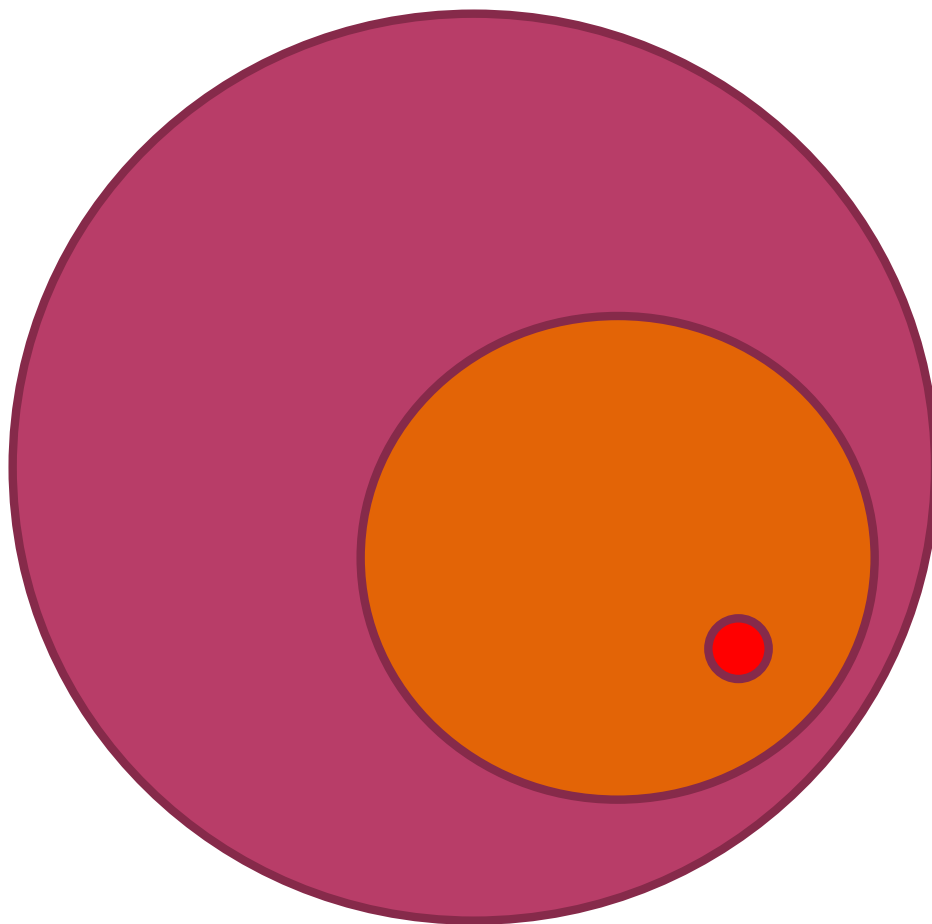
The Government have recognised that the statutory agencies rely on people to report any abuse that they see.

Therefore the current thinking is that Safeguarding the Vulnerable is

**Everyone's Responsibility**



# THE NUMBERS INVOLVED





# THE FACTORS THAT INCREASE RISK

- ◉ Substance Abuse
- ◉ Poverty
- ◉ Domestic Abuse
- ◉ Mental Health Issues
- ◉ Special or Additional Needs
- ◉ History of Abuse
- ◉ Social Isolation

# THE RECOGNISED TYPES OF ABUSE

## Child Abuse:

### Physical Abuse

Visible marks not consistent with explanations.

### Emotional/Psychological Abuse

Threats and coercion, making someone feel valueless.

### Sexual Abuse

Unwanted Sexual activity and exposure to material of a sexual nature

### Neglect

The persistent failure to provide appropriate levels of care

## Adult Abuse

The previous four apply to adults too, plus

### Financial Abuse

Being made to part with money or goods against their will

### Discrimination

Being made to feel valueless on basis of race, colour, culture or creed

### Institutional Abuse

Failing to see the person as an individual and making them “fit” into the system

# HOW DO YOU FIND OUT ABOUT ABUSE?

- ⦿ The abused person tells you...  
“Disclosure”
- ⦿ A third party tells you
- ⦿ People tell you unusual things are happening
- ⦿ You see something on a visit
- ⦿ You are asked to install, repair or change something(s) in the property

# THE IMPORTANCE OF “DISCLOSURE”

- ◉ Given that you own the property, people may see you as the person to resolve their concerns
- ◉ It is vital to safeguarding that any concerns received through disclosure are taken seriously
- ◉ Disclosure can easily place you in the position of having to “think the unthinkable”
- ◉ Disclosures must be recorded accurately, but should avoid “leading” the person disclosing

# IF A CHILD OR VULNERABLE ADULT DISCLOSES TO YOU

- ⦿ Stay calm as you listen
- ⦿ Tell the person they are right to tell someone
- ⦿ Explain you may need to share the issue to get it resolved, do not promise confidentiality
- ⦿ Don't express any opinion on the abuse(r)

# IF A CHILD OR VULNERABLE ADULT DISCLOSES TO YOU (CONT.)

- ⦿ Don't ask leading questions, what they tell you, is what you have
- ⦿ Don't write while they speak, make an accurate written record as soon as possible after the disclosure
- ⦿ Don't take photos of injuries
- ⦿ Report immediately to the authorities

## WHAT TO DO NEXT

If you are fearful the person is in immediate danger:

Ring 999 and ask for the Police

To refer a child:

0800 1313126 (Staffordshire)

01782 235100 (Stoke-on Trent)

You will be asked to complete a MARF form, within 24 hours.



IN CONCLUSION...

Are there any Questions?