

16 November 2023

Adult Safeguarding, investigations, policy, procedure and process

1) The current adult safeguarding investigation report template form used by the Belfast Trust after an adult safeguarding investigation is completed.

See attached the Regional APP7 Adult Protection Report. Please note there may be some formatting variation due to the development of this form on Paris CIS (which is our IT system), however the content of this does not vary from the regional document.

2) What date did the Belfast Trust formally implement the Regional Adult Safeguarding Documentation contained in the Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures (September 2016)

The Belfast Health and Social Care Trust implemented the Regional Adult Safeguarding Policy in 2017. However, the new APP suite of forms had to be developed by the Paris CIS Team so that they could be put on to our IT system. These were implemented on Paris CIS in June 2022.

3) How many adult safeguarding investigations are currently ongoing in the Belfast Trust?

This question would require a manual review of individual service areas. This would exceed the costs limit specified in the FOI act.

We estimate that compliance with this element of the request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information

4) How many adult safeguarding investigations were completed in 2022?

The SPPG data return requests that we provide data on the number of adult safeguarding investigations 'closed'. For the reporting period 2022/3 BHSCT closed 414 Adult Safeguarding investigations.

5) Copy of procedure or policy used by the DAPO or Investigation Officer during an adult protection/safeguarding process.

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Please see attached the Regional Adult Safeguarding Policy and Operational Procedures.

6) Copy policy or procedure that a vulnerable adult and their relatives receive during an adult protection/safeguarding process

Please see attached the Regional Adult Safeguarding Policy and Operational Procedures.

7) Copy of the training manual and documents provided to DAPO and Investigation Officers during their training and induction.

The Belfast Trust do not provide training manuals as part of their induction for Adult Safeguarding. The Trust does operate an internal Adult Safeguarding policy within the organisation. Please see attached Training Materials from the BHSCT Learning and Development team

8) What is the difference between the terms adult protection and adult safeguarding.

As per the Regional Adult Safeguarding policy:

“the term ‘safeguarding’ is used in its widest sense, that is, to encompass both activity which **prevents** harm from occurring in the first place and activity which **protects** adults at risk where harm has occurred or is likely to occur without intervention.”

As per the Regional Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures (2016):

Adult Safeguarding “is a broad continuum of activity. It ranges from the empowerment and strengthening of communities, through prevention and early intervention, to risk assessment and management, including investigation and protective intervention. At all stages along this continuum, safeguarding interventions will aim to provide appropriate information, supportive responses and services which become increasingly more targeted and specialist as the risk of harm increases.”

In section 2.3 -

An ‘Adult at risk of harm’ is a person aged 18 or over, whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their personal characteristics and/or life circumstances.

Personal characteristics may include, but are not limited to, age, disability, special educational needs, illness, mental or physical frailty or impairment of, or disturbance in, the functioning of the mind or brain. Life circumstances may include, but are not limited to, isolation, socio-economic factors and environmental living conditions.

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In section 2.4 -

An 'Adult in need of protection' is a person aged 18 or over, whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased by their

A) personal characteristics and / or B) life circumstances

AND

C) who is unable to protect their own well-being, property, assets, rights or other interests;

AND

D) where the action or inaction of another person or persons is causing, or is likely to cause, him/her to be harmed.

In order to meet the definition of an 'adult in need of protection' either (A) or (B) must be present, in addition to both elements (C), and (D).

9) How many allegations of institutional abuse in the years 2020-23 (provide figure for each year)

Institutional Abuse Data	
2020/21	28
2021/22	29
2022/23	30

10) How many investigations of institutional abuse in 2020-2023 (provide figure for each year)

- This information is retrievable via current electronic data basis and would require a manual count from each service area – this would take a considerable amount of time in excess of 18 hours. This would exceed the costs limit specified in the FOI act.

We estimate that compliance with this element of the request for information would exceed the appropriate costs limit. Under Section 12 of the Freedom of Information 2000, the limit has been specified as £450 and represents the estimated cost of one or more persons spending 18 hours in determining whether we hold the information, locating, retrieving and extracting this information.