



& our Partners,

Committed to  
Safeguarding Adults



## Safeguarding Children to Safeguarding Adults Transition Protocol

## Background

Together the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014 create a new comprehensive legislative framework for transition. The duties in both Acts are on the Local Authority, but this does not exclude the need for all organisations to work together to ensure that the safeguarding adult's policy and procedures work in conjunction with those for children and young people.

For young people who meet the criteria there should be robust joint working arrangements between children's and adults' services. The care needs of the young person should be at the forefront of any support planning and requires a coordinated multi-agency approach. Assessments of care needs should include issues of safeguarding and risk. Care planning needs to ensure that the young adult's safety is not put at risk through delays in providing the services that they need in order to maintain their independence, wellbeing and choice.

## Introduction

Safeguarding Children's procedures cover children and young adults up to the age of 18 years. Safeguarding Adults procedures cover all adults from the age of 18 years (who may be in need of care or support services and who may be unable to take care of him/herself, or unable to protect him/herself against harm or exploitation).

This protocol sits alongside the mainstream Transition Protocol for young people with a disability as they reach adulthood and will be used in addition where there are safeguarding concerns before or at the point of case transfer.

This protocol clarifies which service is responsible for leading a safeguarding investigation and putting protection plans (where required) in place. It also outlines the process to be followed at the point of case transfer to ensure that when a young person with care or support needs begins the transition from Children's Services to Adult Services, that any current or previous child protection or safeguarding concerns are reported to Safeguarding Adults Services.

## Application/Timescales

The timescales defined in the Council's transition protocol will apply to this guidance. This protocol applies where the young person (who has care or support needs) has been subject to a Child Protection Plan or where there have been previous Safeguarding Children/risk of sexual exploitation concerns.

This protocol applies to staff in Harrow's Children's Services where they have been working with relevant children and staff in Harrow Adult's Services likely to receive eligible young people through transition arrangements.

## Principles

### INVESTIGATION

When an alleged victim is over the age of 18 years by the time the safeguarding incident is reported, but the allegation occurred prior to the individual reaching that age, any investigation will be led by Children's Services and/or the police. In such cases the involvement of Children's Services will be initiated via the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

When an alleged victim is over 18 years and the allegation occurred after they reached that age, any investigation into the concerns will be led by Adult's Services. If there is evidence that the alleged victim has, or is at significant risk of sexual exploitation, this information should be shared with the chair of the Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel, in order to develop a holistic overview of intelligence that could improve prevention and disruption activity in Harrow.

If concerns are raised about a provider that runs services for individuals both under and over the age of 18 (such as specialist colleges), the host authority should be responsible for clarifying whether their children or young adults safeguarding services will act as the Safeguarding Manager and coordinate any investigation that is required. Input will be required from Harrow Children or Adult Services as the placing/funding authority. The Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) should be consulted if there is concern that staff have acted in a way that has "harmed" a child/young person by an act of commission or omission.

### PROTECTION PLANS

The protection arrangements, however, may be the responsibility of either children or adult services where the following criteria apply:

- where a young person is supported by children's services under the "leaving care" arrangements, their protection is the responsibility of that service until they are 21 (or 25 if they are still in full-time education or training). A small number of looked after young people will transfer to Adult Services at 18 if their assessment indicates that they do not have the capacity to live independently as an adult and require accommodation/funding. In such cases the safeguarding responsibility will transfer to adult social care services at the same time as the case is transferred
- if the safeguarding alert is raised during the transitions period held by Children's Services, then the responsibility for the protection will remain with this service throughout the investigation. Any discussion/agreement to transfer responsibility should be made subsequent to and not as part of the investigation

- in all other cases the protection arrangements would be the responsibility of Adult Services
- any risks to young siblings must be addressed through children's social care. In such cases communication between adults and children's services must take place - and be continuous, so that each service is kept informed and can take account of any implications that cross over these two service areas

### **CASE TRANSFER PROCEDURE**

Case transfer discussions will take place between the Team Manager in the current (Children's Service) service and the receiving (Adult Services) Team Manager. Once agreement has been reached on case transfer, the following procedure must be followed:

- details of the Child Protection Plan or previous safeguarding children/child sexual exploitation (CSE) concerns must be recorded in the transfer summary paperwork
- the Adult Social Care Team (that the young person will be transferring to after transition) must be alerted in writing
- Harrow's Safeguarding Adults Service must also be alerted in writing
- the relevant receiving manager in Adults Services will confirm to Children's Services within 5 working days whether the young person is likely to be eligible for a service at the point of transfer
- the Safeguarding Adults Manager and relevant Service Manager must have unrestricted access to any relevant FWi electronic records held by Children's Services
- if there is an existing child protection plan in place then a case transfer conference should be convened by Children's Services, inviting the Manager of the receiving Team and the Team Manager Safeguarding Adults
- at that meeting, conference chairs and Independent Reviewing Officers (if involved), should seek assurance that there has been appropriate consultation with the young person and adult social care that clarifies:
  - what information and advice the young person has received about adult safeguarding
  - the need for advocacy and support
  - whether a mental capacity assessment is needed and who will undertake it

If case transfer cannot be agreed, the dispute should be escalated to the Manager Children's Access Services and the Manager Safeguarding Adults and DoLS Services for resolution.

## Young People with Disabilities Not Known to Harrow Children With Disabilities Service

Many other staff (e.g. school and college staff) will work with young people with disabilities or special needs who are not known to Children's Service. When these young people are aged 18 or over, in the process of transition to Adult Services and there is concern about possible abuse, this should also be reported to Harrow's Safeguarding Adults Service.

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### IMPORTANT CONTACTS

#### **HARROW CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES SERVICE**

Alexandra Avenue Health & Social Care Centre, 275 Alexandra Avenue,  
Harrow, HA2 9DX

Tel: 020 8966 6481

#### **HARROW CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE TEAM**

Golden Access number: 020 8901 2690 (this is also the pathway for LADO consultation)

Harrow Multi-Agency Sexual Exploitation (MASE) panel

Email: [mase@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:mase@harrow.gov.uk)

#### **HARROW EMERGENCY (OUT OF HOURS) DUTY SOCIAL WORK TEAM**

**Tel:** 020 8424 0999

#### **HARROW LEAVING CARE TEAM**

Civic 4, Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow HA1 2AY

Tel: 020 8416 8014

#### **HARROW LONG TERM CARE MANAGEMENT TEAM**

Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow, HA1 2FR

Tel: 020 8863 8611

**HARROW SAFEGUARDING ADULTS SERVICE**

Golden access number for concerns: 020 8901 2680

e-mail: [safeguarding.adults@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:safeguarding.adults@harrow.gov.uk)

SAFE HAVEN FAX: 020 8416 8269

**ADULT SERVICES**

Golden access number: 020 8901 2680

e-mail: [ahadultsservices@harrow.gov.uk](mailto:ahadultsservices@harrow.gov.uk)

**Mental Health Services 24 hour crisis line**

After 5pm and before 8am on weekdays. 24 hours on Saturdays, Sundays  
and Bank Holidays Tel: 0800 0234 650

**REFERENCES**

<http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report39.asp>

<http://www.londonscb.gov.uk/procedures/>

<https://www.gov.uk/search?q=SEND+reforms>