

The Roles of the Statutory Agencies in Safeguarding

Working with Children and Adults at Risk

Agency	Role
<p>Police</p>	<p>The Police’s primary role is to safeguard the public from harm and to investigations allegations of criminal offences. With regard to safeguarding, the police should be contacted if there is reason to believe that a criminal offence has been committed or there is an imminent risk of serious harm to individuals or the wider community. Where there is an imminent risk of harm then contact the police using 999. For all other matters call 101 or report via the local police force website.</p>
<p>Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH)</p>	<p>The Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub has representatives from a variety of agencies including children and adult social care, the police, housing, community mental health teams, probation and youth justice services. It is the first point of contact for social care in the majority of local authorities but not all so it is important to check this and include the appropriate contact details in your safeguarding policy and procedures before you need them.</p> <p>You can do this by visiting your Local Authority Website or through an internet search. Once a referral has been received by the MASH they will identify the best agency to deal with the concern and forward the referral as appropriate.</p>

Working with Professionals

Agency	Role
<p>Local Area Designated Officer / Designated Officer (LADO)</p>	<p>The LADO role was established to provide case management and oversight when allegations have been made against an adult in a position of trust concerning the treatment or abuse of children under the age of 18 in England. The LADO role does not exist at present in Wales.</p> <p>It is not the LADO role to investigate allegations but to co-ordinate the response from other agencies.</p> <p>Churches may be involved in meetings, sometimes called Allegations Management Meetings (AMM) or Position of Trust meetings (POT) if there has been a concern raised about someone in a leadership role in the church or working directly with children and young people. Following the initial meeting there may be some actions that need to be taken up by the church. This can include investigating the allegation if it directly relates to their role in church.</p>

Working with Children

Agency	Role
<p>Children’s Social Care (CSC)</p>	<p>Children’s Social Care has responsibility under the Children Act 1989 to intervene to protect children and young people under the age of 18 at risk of harm. They often have specialist teams focussing of specific areas of work with children and families including child protection teams, assessment teams and looked after children’s teams.</p> <p>It is important to note that their responsibility extends to the age of 25 where someone has additional needs or is in local authority care at the point that they turn 18.</p> <p>Whilst your initial contact about a child or family may be with the MASH, if they require further assessment or intervention you are likely to be working directly with children’s social care.</p>
<p>Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)</p>	<p>The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services provides all services relating to mental health for those under 18, this includes low level therapeutic interventions at one end of the spectrum to emergency and inpatient referrals when needed. The important thing to note that the referral routes for CAMHS are usually other statutory services such as schools, children’s social care and GPs. If you, as a church worker, have concerns about the mental health of a child in your care it is important to speak to the parents in the first instance and encourage them to seek support through their GP or school.</p>
<p>Local Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB)</p>	<p>The LSCB has been set up to co-ordinate local work to safeguard children and young people and promote their welfare. Its role is to oversee the work of member organisations both individually and collectively. Primarily their work is focussed on developing interagency policies and procedures which serve to implement the Working Together to Safeguard Children guidance. They are a good source of information about how local agencies work together and training events that are open to all. The LADO is employed by the LSCB.</p>

Working with Adults

Agency	Role
Adult Social Care (ASC)	Adult social care teams are often generic and work with anyone over the age of 18 who is in need to additional care and support because of an illness, physical disability or learning difficulty. The thresholds for a service is often very high, as it is with children’s social care. Adult safeguarding frequently sits within these teams, although you will need to check your Local Authority website to confirm this and the appropriate referral route. Adult social care will seek to commission support and care where needed, often from external agencies.
Community Mental Health Team (CMHT)	<p>CMHT are part of the NHS and provide services for adults over the age of 18 where there is a need for mental health intervention. The main referral route into these services is through the GP or Accident and Emergency Department. As with CAMHS they are involved in provided outpatient treatment on a long term basis and crisis intervention. Often there will be a Crisis service where people can go if they feel unsafe in themselves.</p> <p>If you believe that someone is an imminent risk of harm to themselves or others it is important that you call 999. Police work closely with CMHT to ensure that as far as possible someone in crisis is taken to a place of safety as soon as possible. Mental Health legislations gives powers to specialist practitioners and the police to detain someone for a mental health assessment against their will.</p>
National Probation Service (NPS)	The National Probation Service works with high risk offenders over the age of 18. If you have someone in your church who has been in prison for serious offences, then it is likely that they will have someone working with them from the NPS when they are released.
Local Safeguarding Adults Board (SABs)	The local safeguarding adults board (SAB) is a multi-agency partnership responsible for leading the strategic and operational safeguarding adults work within each local authority area. Department of Health guidance issued in 2000 on adult safeguarding, No Secrets, encouraged the setting up of local ‘multi-agency management committees’ as a means of achieving effective multi-agency working on adult protection. These committees would determine policy, coordinate activity between agencies, facilitate joint training, and monitor and review progress (Department of Health, 2000). These committees eventually became known as SABs

Reviewed February 2021