



Operation STOVEWOOD – Safeguarding Procedures

Appendix C: Concerns for Adults

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Concerns for adults (NB – see also separate domestic abuse, stalking and harassment procedure)

Principles

- An adult is anyone over the age of 18 years.
- Some adults with disabilities or learning disabilities, those living with abuse, illness (including mental illness), or infirmity, might be termed as 'vulnerable'.
- Adults have the right to protection from abuse and neglect if they are unable to protect themselves. Some adults who are vulnerable may be unable to protect themselves. It is important not to make assumptions and to consider strengths.
- Abuse can be physical, sexual, emotional/psychological, financial, and include neglect, some adults may experience a combination of more than one form of abuse.
- Adults who are sexually exploited are living with abuse.
- Victims, survivors, witnesses, suspects and their family members may be vulnerable adults with safeguarding needs.
- Officers must report adult safeguarding concerns. Not to do so is a failure of professional practice.
- The responsible authorities for investigating adult abuse are the police and social care.

1. Safeguarding concerns

Operation STOVEWOOD officers attending homes for victim, witness and suspect contact may note concerns for an adult.

Where there is an immediate risk to the adult, the appropriate emergency service should be called.

The attending officer must complete a CID70 (or equivalent local authority/PPU referral form) following the incident. Disruption and Safeguarding Team (DST) should be informed of the action.

Where there are non-immediate concerns for safety or well-being of an adult, the officer must complete a CID70 (or equivalent local authority/PPU referral form) and send to DST for onward referral.

If there is any doubt about action to be taken about a concern, officers should contact the duty officer for DST for advice and support.

2. Responsibilities of all officers

All officers are likely to come across information that may raise cause for concern about safeguarding an adult. Any information that indicates on-going or current behaviour suggesting physical, sexual, emotional/psychological, financial abuse or neglect towards an adult, should be reported to DST for assessment and potential onward referral.

3. Concerns about colleagues

All officers have a duty to refer any concerns about colleagues that relate to their adult safeguarding duties. Operation STOVEWOOD has access to some of the most vulnerable adults and their information. The duty and priority of all officers is to protect and safeguard the vulnerable.

Any concerns about the behaviour or conduct of a STOVEWOOD officer must be reported to an officer at G3 level or above. Any concerns will be dealt with via established processes for professional standards alongside statutory safeguarding.

4. Contact and conduct with victims, survivors, witnesses, suspects and their families

Contact with victims, survivors, witnesses, suspects and their families. not authorised for the purposes of Operation STOVEWOOD investigation, is expressly prohibited.

Officers must conduct themselves professionally at all times with victims, survivors, witnesses, suspects and their families. Officers must treat information held by Operation STOVEWOOD with the strictest confidence.

Any complaint reported to any officer by victims, survivors, witnesses, suspects and their families must be reported immediately to the officer's line manager and G3. The G3 must inform the D/SIO or SIO of any complaint.

4. The Disruption and Safeguarding Team (DST)

Any officer can approach the DST at any time to discuss a concern about safeguarding. DST has a daily duty officer who should be approached in the first instance. If the matter is sensitive or confidential, a G4 or G3 DST manager is available each day.

Ownership

This procedure belongs to Operation STOVEWOOD. It is owned by the G3 DST for the purposes of review. It is agreed and mandated