

**CARERS AND THE CARE ACT 2014 – NEW
RESPONSIBILITIES FOR PROTECTION**

4th November 2015

**Theresa Renwick, Safeguarding Adults Lead
Whittington Health**



Who is an adult at risk? Whittington Health

The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

(Care Act 2014, Regulation 14)



Guiding principles of adult safeguarding.

- **Empowerment:-** person led decisions, nothing about me without me, informed consent. Independent advocate
- **Protection:-** support and representation of those in greatest need
- **Prevention:-** prevention by taking action before harm, abuse, neglect
- **Proportionality:-** least intrusive response and restriction in a plan, appropriate to the risk presented
- **Partnerships:-** working with multi agency , professional, family and friends, person centered
- **Accountability:-** accountable for our actions, learning lessons, transparency and changing practice



- Alia is 28 and has a learning disability. You visit her at home and her mother Humara, her carer, wants to speak with you.
- Humara says that Alia has been shouting at her and pushing her.
- Any safeguarding issues?



- John has a diagnosis of dementia, and lives with his wife of 20 years. He requires assistance with personal care.
- John's personality has changed, and he can be aggressive to carers when they try to assist him
- The fifth care agency has pulled out and his wife Jo has taken the week off work whilst a new care agency is found.
- The police have been called five times in four days to the house due to his aggression.



WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT ISSUES TO BE AWARE OF IN THIS SITUATION?

Has the relationship between John and Jo changed?

How might Jo be supported?

Do you have any statutory obligation to intervene?



Carers and safeguarding

Whittington Health



- Circumstances in which a carer (for example, a family member or friend) could be involved in a situation that may require a safeguarding response include:
- **a carer may witness or speak up about abuse or neglect;**
- **a carer may experience intentional or unintentional harm from the adult they are trying to support or from professionals and organisations they are in contact with; or,**
- **a carer may unintentionally or intentionally harm or neglect the adult they support on their own or with others.**



- All carers must be offered a carers assessment.
- It may well be that during this assessment, it becomes clear that the caring role is causing them additional anxiety and stress, and that additional support is needed for the carer
- Any examples of this?
- The service user may pose a risk to their carer – we have a responsibility to safeguard carers too.
- Carer is also entitled to advocacy services to support them through the safeguarding process.



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- Vital to ensure the voice of the carer is heard
- Need to ensure the carer is aware of the support available
- Recognise the relationship has changed
- What preventative measures can be taken?
- Which agencies need to be involved?



Whittington Health
Magdala Avenue
London
N19 5NF
7272

Tel: 020 3070

Fax: 020 7288 5550

Website: www.whittington.nhs.uk

