

## Further information

Further safeguarding information is available from the Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust website at

[www.sompar.nhs.uk/safeguarding/](http://www.sompar.nhs.uk/safeguarding/).

Information for both adults and children's safeguarding can also be found at the Somerset Safeguarding Adult Board website at

[www.ssab.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk](http://www.ssab.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk) and

the Somerset Safeguarding Children Board at

[www.sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk](http://www.sscb.safeguardingsomerset.org.uk).

Information about children's needs and welfare can be found from Barnardo's website at

[www.barnardos.org.uk](http://www.barnardos.org.uk) and the NSPCC Child

Protection website [www.nspcc.org.uk](http://www.nspcc.org.uk).

There is further information on Advocacy available at [www.swanadvocacy.org.uk](http://www.swanadvocacy.org.uk).

## Service contact details

The Safeguarding Service provides advice and support to all staff across the Trust via our single point of access

**0300 123 2224**

This leaflet is available in other formats, including easy read summary versions and other languages upon request. If this would be helpful to you, please speak to a member of staff.

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## Safeguarding you and your children when you are in our care



The Trust Safeguarding Service is working to support our staff protecting patients, carers, relatives and the public in Somerset

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## Introduction

This leaflet outlines the duty that Somerset Partnership has to safeguard you as a patient, your family/carers, staff and the public whilst you are in hospital, or involved with any of our community services.

Safeguarding means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. All Trust staff have a responsibility and duty of care to safeguard those with whom we work.

## Confidentiality

Information that you share with our staff is confidential and will only be shared with others looking after you. The one exception is if an adult or child is at risk in some way. In these cases staff may need to discuss the welfare of the person at risk with our specialist safeguarding staff within the Trust or share the information with other agencies.

If you are worried about an adult or child's welfare you can talk to the staff caring for you and they can support you to get help.

## What happens if I tell a member of staff I believe an adult or child is at risk?

Staff will need to take the name, date of birth and address of the adult or child you are concerned about and ask if there are any other professionals involved with the person.

Trained staff will carry out a careful and sensitive inquiry. What happens then will depend on what the person involved would like to happen and what risks there are to this person. If they are in physical danger, their safety will need to be put first.

When the person at risk is living in our area we will offer information and advice to the person who is suffering abuse.

When the person at risk is living out of the area we would support the reporter to take action to protect the person where they are living. This will mean they can make a fully informed choice about any help they need or about any action they wish to take.

If the person at risk is unable to make a fully informed choice or are under 18 years of age, care will be taken to support and protect them.

A fully informed choice is one where a person who makes the decision knows and understands all the information surrounding their choices and can make this choice without being controlled by influences coming from anything or anyone else.

## What happens if I tell a member of staff that I believe I am at risk?

The same process will happen. Staff will work with you to decide how best to help you. The first step will be to make a plan to help. This will include three main things:

1. Understand your views on what you want to happen.
2. Make a plan to keep you safe.
3. Make an enquiry into the concerns.

If you are able to make informed decisions about your safety, you can decide whether to accept the help or not. If not, we will arrange for someone to represent and support you such as an independent advocate.

Decisions will then be made in your best interests to help protect your safety and your wishes.