

FOI 1983

02/11/23

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT 2000 – INFORMATION REQUEST

1) The current adult safeguarding investigation report template form used by the Southern Trust after an adult safeguarding investigation is completed.

Southern Trust use the adult protection investigation template as per the Regional Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures, 2016. Since implementation and operational transition to the PARIS recording system a number of small additions have been included in the template to embed learning from practice. A copy of the PARIS template is attached. (Attachment 1)

2) What date did the Southern Trust formally implement the Regional Adult Safeguarding Documentation contained in the Adult Safeguarding Operational Procedures (September 2016)

Southern Trust began the process of implementation in September 2016 as per the communication from the HSCB and can confirm that full implementation was achieved by 31st March 2017.

3) How many adult safeguarding investigations are currently ongoing in the Southern Trust?

As at 23rd October 2023 there are 390 ongoing adult protection investigations in the Southern Trust.

4) How many adult safeguarding investigations were completed in 2022?

From 1st Jan 2022 to 31st Dec 2022 there were 355 adult protection investigations.

5) Copy of procedure or policy used by the DAPO or Investigation Officer during an adult protection/safeguarding process.

Southern Trust adheres to the Regional Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership Policy, 2015 and the Adult Safeguarding Operational procedures: Adults at Risk of Harm and Adults in Need of Protection, 2016. Where there is a concern of a potential criminal nature Southern Trust adheres to the Protocol for Joint Investigation of Adult Safeguarding Cases, 2016

6) Copy policy or procedure that a vulnerable adult and their relatives receive during an adult protection/safeguarding process.

Information about the adult protection process is shared with adults and/or their relatives verbally throughout the investigation and in an accessible written format where this is required.



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Adults and / or their relative, where appropriate, are invited to participate in strategy discussions and case conference and will be provided with individual copies of the notes. Easy read materials pertaining to the investigation stages/ processes are available and used to aid communication in a person specific basis. Service user feedback recording templates are used to collate information from adults and relatives on their experience of the process. (Attachment 2, 3 &4)

7) Copy of the training manual and documents provided to DAPO and Investigation Officers during their training and induction.

The DAPO and IO courses build on material covered in the prerequisite adult safeguarding training “Adult Safeguarding Recognising and responding” (NIASP Level 2 – Corporate Mandatory Training). Following initial training all DAPO and IO staff are required to engage with further CPD including attending practice support fora and specific learning and development courses.

Please note that these training materials are the intellectual property of the SHSCT and they should not be shared without the consent of the owner. (Attachments 5 & 6)

8) What is the difference between the terms adult protection and adult safeguarding.

As per the Regional Adult Safeguarding Prevention and Protection in Partnership Policy, 2015 the term ‘safeguarding’ is used in its widest sense, that is, to encompass both activity which **prevents** harm from occurring in the first place and activity which **protects** adults at risk where harm has occurred or is likely to occur without intervention.

Preventative Safeguarding includes a range of actions and measures such as practical help, care, support and interventions designed to promote the safety, well-being and rights of adults which reduce the likelihood of, or opportunities for, harm to occur. Effective preventative safeguarding requires partnership working, that is, individuals, professionals and agencies working together to recognise the potential for, and to prevent, harm. Prevention is therefore the responsibility of a wide range of agencies, organisations and groups; indeed it is the responsibility and concern of us all as good citizens and neighbours. All professionals and service providers across the public, private, statutory, voluntary, community, independent, and faith sectors that come into contact with adults, including those who may be at risk of harm, must be alert to the individual’s needs and any risks of harm to which they may be exposed. Prevention will strive towards early intervention to provide additional supports at all levels for adults whose personal characteristics or life circumstances may increase their exposure to harm.

Protective Safeguarding will be targeted at adults who are in need of protection, that is, when harm from abuse, exploitation or neglect is suspected, has occurred, or is likely to occur. The protection service is led by HSC Trusts and the PSNI. The input of other individuals, disciplines or agencies may be required, either in the course of an investigation of an allegation of harm or in the formulation and delivery of a care and protection plan.

9) How many allegations of institutional abuse in the years 2020-23 (provide figure for each year)

2020	6
2021	18
2022	13
2023	8

(9 mths only)

10) How many investigations of institutional abuse in 2020-2023 (provide figure for each year)

2020	5
2021	10
2022	7
2023	5

(9 mths only)

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