



An Introduction to Safeguarding Children, Young People and Adults at risk

Learning Outcomes

- Have a good understanding of what safeguarding is and why it is important
- Understand why safeguarding is everyone's responsibility
- Know how to make a referral and who to contact if you have any concerns
- Understand the principles surrounding confidentiality, information sharing and consent in adults



Self Care

- Safeguarding can be an emotive subject and the content can sometimes be difficult to hear
- If you feel uncomfortable and need to take a break, please do so
- If you need to step away, the facilitator will check on you and see if you are able to continue



Some Useful Safeguarding Definitions

Child	Someone who is under the age of 18 who has a right to be protected in law. It's important to remember that all children and young people are potentially vulnerable.
Adult	Someone who is 18 years or over
Adult at Risk	Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and is experiencing, or is 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.
Safeguarding	Safeguarding means preventing and protecting children and adults at risk from abuse or neglect and educating those around them to recognise the signs and dangers.
Child Protection	Child Protection is part of the safeguarding children process, protecting individual children identified as suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. This includes the child protection procedures which detail how to respond to concerns about a child.

Why is Safeguarding Important?

- As our club / centre works with vulnerable groups (children, young people and adults at risk), we have a duty of care to ensure that all those we support are protected from abuse, neglect and harm.
- We have stringent policies, processes and procedures to ensure that our club / centre has an imbedded safeguarding culture throughout its members, staff and or volunteer teams.
- Having a safe culture protects everyone and protects us against reputational damage and loss of funds

Positions of Trust – A Change to the Law

- A “position of trust” is a legal term that refers to certain roles and settings where an adult has regular and direct contact with children such as teachers, doctors, social workers and care workers
- In England, Wales and Northern Ireland changes to the law made in 2022 extend the definition to include sports coaches and faith leaders
- It is now **against the law** for someone in a position of trust to engage in sexual activity with a child in their care, even if that child is over the age of consent (16 or over).



How does safeguarding adults differ from safeguarding children and young people?

Safeguarding Adults:

- Adults have the right to live the lives they choose, even if that life is considered risky
- If they have capacity, they can insist that confidentiality cannot be broken (they have the right to this)
- However, if a crime has been committed, someone is in danger or likely to put others in danger, you can break confidentiality



What is mental capacity and what does it mean?

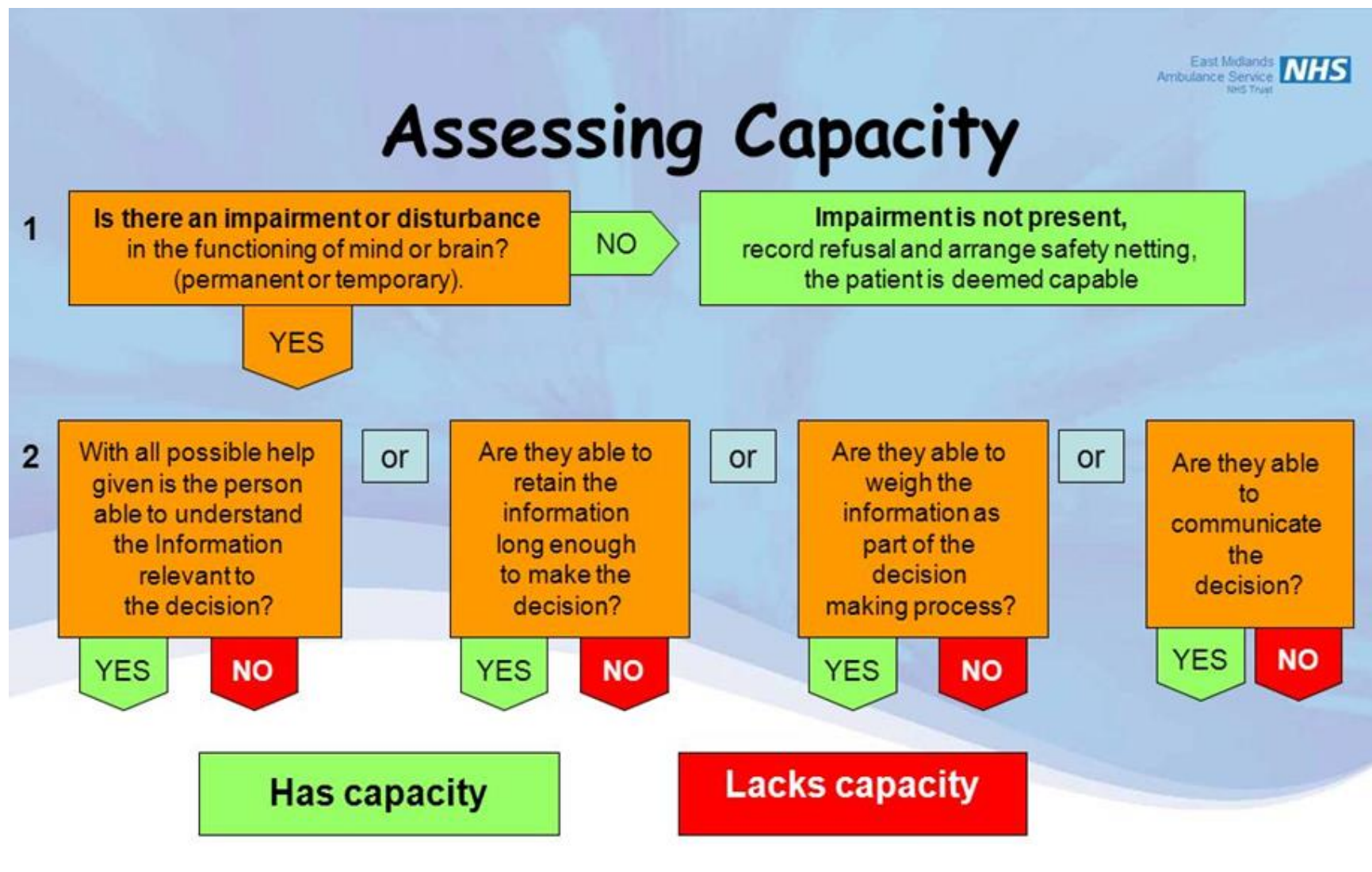
As an adult, having mental capacity means being able to make and communicate your own decisions.

Someone may lack mental capacity if they can't:

- Understand information about a particular decision
- Remember that information long enough to make the decision
- Weigh up the information to make the decision or communicate their decision.



Assessing Capacity – An NHS Guide



But what's it got to do with me?

- Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility regardless of who you are and what you do
- It is important that you understand what safeguarding is and what to do if someone makes a disclosure to you or you identify that someone may be experiencing abuse or harm.



What do I need to do?

Know how to recognise abuse and how to respond

Know who the Club Welfare Officer is and how to contact them

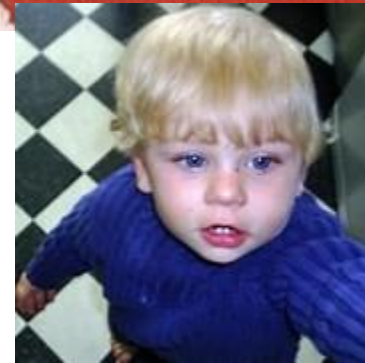
Know who the RYA Safeguarding Team is and how to contact them

Understand that there is always someone to talk to if you have a concern



Confidentiality, Information Sharing and Consent

Information sharing is essential for effective safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and adults at risk. It is a key factor identified in many Serious Case Reviews (SCRs), where poor information sharing has resulted in missed opportunities to take action that keeps vulnerable groups safe.



Types of Abuse

Adults	Children
Physical Abuse Sexual Abuse Neglect / Acts of Omission Domestic violence or abuse Psychological or emotional abuse Financial or material abuse Modern slavery Discriminatory abuse Organisational or institutional abuse Self-neglect	Physical Abuse Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Neglect Emotional / Psychological Abuse

How to respond to a safeguarding disclosure

Being the recipient of a safeguarding disclosure can be incredibly difficult, especially if the recipient is not a Safeguarding Lead. However, choosing not to respond to a disclosure can never happen, regardless of how uncomfortable the recipient is.

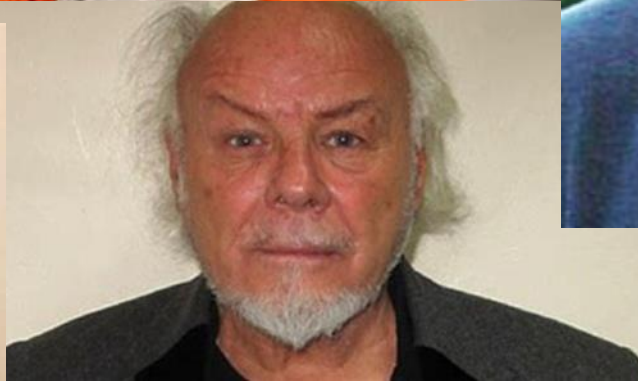
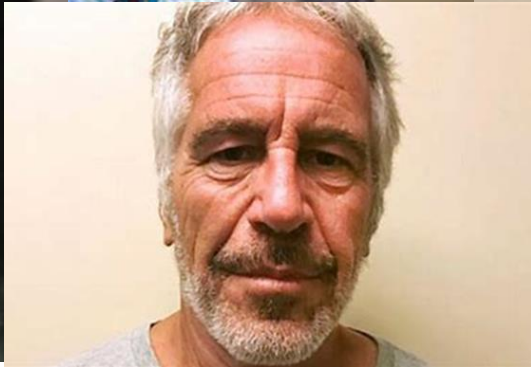
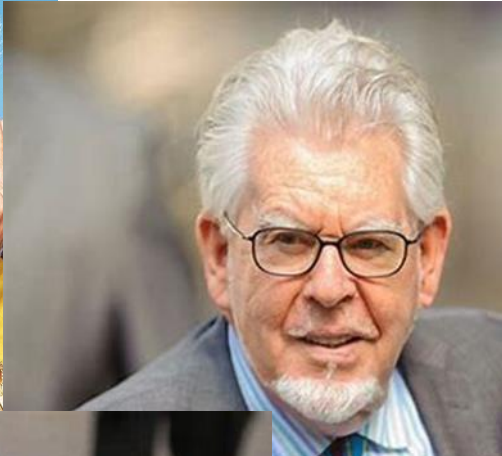
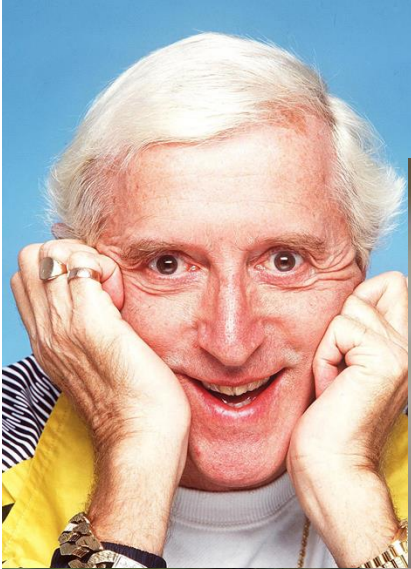
DOING
NOTHING IS
NEVER AN
OPTION

Dos and Don'ts when dealing with a disclosure

Do	Don't
Listen carefully and trust what the person is telling you implicitly	Tell the person you will keep what they have told you a secret
Thank the person for telling you and offer them reassurance that you will help them	Panic, overreact, be judgmental, make assumptions or put words in the person's mouth
Make a written factual record asap using the persons own words where possible	Investigate the allegations or ask the victim to repeatedly go over the facts
Share your concerns with the Club Welfare Officer or the RYA Safeguarding Team	Discuss the disclosure with people who do not need to know

Remember, if a crime has been committed call the police straight away

**No matter how long you have known
someone or how well you think you know
them, YOU DON'T!**



Who should I report a concern to?

The Club Welfare Officer

Rex Hendricksen
02920751143

The RYA Safeguarding Team

- Katie Loucaides – RYA Safeguarding and Equality Manager
- Andrea Gates – RYA Safeguarding Officer
- Amy Lowbridge – RYA Safeguarding and Equality Senior Administrator

02380 604297 / safeguarding@rya.org.uk

Keep yourself safe and avoid putting yourself at risk

- Never be unsupervised with children & adults at risk
- Avoid using showers / changing facilities where children are present
- Mind your language
- Avoid handling children and adults at risk
- Don't take photographs and videos without consent



Scenario discussions

Part 1

You are walking across the club grounds towards the changing rooms. As you get closer, you notice Brian, a 65-year-old volunteer coming out of the boys' changing rooms with his phone in his hand. He does not have a bag and does not appear to have been sailing.

What do you think about this situation and what would your immediate actions be?

Scenario discussions

Part 2

You are shocked by what you see, but Brian has disappeared, as you walk into the restaurant, you notice that Brian is looking at his phone. As you approach, you can see a naked image of one of the young sailors.

What will you do now?

Scenario discussions

Part 3

Going back to part 1 of this scenario, if Brian had been a 35-year-old female, coming out of the girls' changing rooms, would your thoughts and subsequent actions have been any different.

Remember to check your bias at the door when thinking about safeguarding. Not everyone with malicious intentions are older males. Does everyone remember nursery worker Vanessa George?



Just to recap....

- If it doesn't quite feel right, pass on your concerns
- Remain watchful and vigilant
- Keep yourself safe
- Receive, respond & refer
- Adults have the right to live the life they choose
- Never promise to keep secrets
- It is now a criminal offence for a person in a position of trust to engage in sexual activity with a child



Further Signposting

Organisation Name	Contact Details
RYA Safeguarding Team Dedicated team of subject matter experts available for support and guidance	Tel: 02380 604297 Email: safeguarding@rya.org.uk RYA Safeguarding Referral Form
NSPCC 24-hour helpline The UK's leading children's charity, preventing abuse and helping those affected to recover.	Tel: 0808 800 5000 E-mail: help@nspcc.org.uk
Children 1st Scotland A helping hand for every family in Scotland	Tel: 0800 028 2233 (9am – 9pm Mon – Fri) E-mail: parentlinescotland@children1st.org.uk
Supportline Support for children, young adults and adults including those affected by sexual, emotional, and physical abuse.	Tel: 01708 765200 www.supportline.org.uk
Samaritans Emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress, despair, or suicide.	Tel: 08457 90 90 90 (24hrs)