

Public Law Project Safeguarding Policy

The Board of Trustees sign off changes to this policy.

The Chief Operating Officer is responsible for updating this policy.

Approved: October 2025. Last update: October 2025.

Refer to the register of plans and procedures for next review date.

See also: Complaints Policy; Whistleblowing Policy, Recruitment Policy, Disciplinary Policy, Grievance Policy, Health and Safety Policy and, where the matter relates to casework clients, to the Casework Risk Policy as set out in PLP's Casework Manual.

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Core safeguarding contacts	
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Casework Safeguarding Lead	Victoria Pogge von Strandmann safeguarding@publiclawproject.org.uk
Lead Safeguarding Trustee	Simon Fletcher safeguardingtrustee@publiclawproject.org.uk

Policy statement

PLP work to advance fairness through public law, ensure access to justice for all and to ensure that no one is marginalised in society by those with power. Through our work on this, PLP interacts with people who have characteristics, are experiencing circumstances or who have suffered trauma which mean they may be at greater risk of, or be experiencing, harm and abuse.

The safeguarding of both adults at risk and children and young people who we work with is therefore of the utmost importance and priority to us. Through our work we are promoting the welfare and safety of individuals. Safeguarding is a fundamental part of what we do and the way in which we conduct ourselves.

This policy sets out our approach to safeguarding in line with our responsibilities under our regulator, the Charity Commission, as well as to the Solicitors Regulation Authority (by whom our solicitors are regulated) and to the Immigration Advisory Authority (IAA) (with whom PLP are registered for our immigration and asylum work).

Purpose and scope

PLP are committed to safeguarding individuals that come into contact with us including by ensuring clients and other service users are safe and protected from harm, abuse or maltreatment by any PLP staff or representative. . This includes clients and other service users.

All those within PLP have a role to play in protecting people and in understanding their individual and shared responsibilities for safeguarding. This policy therefore applies to all staff, interns, volunteers (our “staff”) and trustees at PLP, and across all of our operations, including but not limited to:

- Our casework with clients and engagement with those enquiring about using our casework services
- Our provision of research and policy work, particularly involving research participants
- Our training and support work, which may include event speakers and participants (including those with lived experience of the topic they are engaging with)
- Our communications work, including interviews of those with lived experience who may share their experiences with us and a wider audience

PLP are also committed to fulfilling our duty to safeguard our staff and trustees. This policy does not seek to cover the safeguarding of PLP’s staff, secondees, volunteers, interns or those on work experience placements save where it relates to those under the age of 18. For further information, please see PLP policies including Wellbeing, Grievances, Whistleblowing and our Staff Manual which outlines our approach to safeguarding the welfare of PLP staff, trustees and volunteers.

Principles

This policy is underpinned by our safeguarding principles, which reflect both our duties and responsibilities and our commitment to protecting people from harm. We use these principles to inform our decisions and actions:

- Safeguarding is everybody's business and our individual and collective responsibility.
- All children and adults have a right to be safe from harm, regardless of their age, sex or gender identity, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious or other beliefs, disability or socioeconomic status. People may be at greater risk of abuse because of any of these characteristics.
- Good safeguarding involves:
 - *Empowerment*: people being supported and encouraged to make their own decisions, and ensuring informed consent where possible and appropriate;
 - *Prevention*: it is better to take action before harm occurs;
 - *Proportionality*: taking the least intrusive response appropriate to the risk presented;
 - *Protection*: supporting and representing those in greatest need;
 - *Partnership*: finding solutions through engaging with local services and taking action in collaboration with other agencies where required;
 - *Accountability*: being transparent in our practices and ensuring that we engage in ongoing learning and improvement.

Definitions

PLP consider safeguarding to mean the protection of an individual's health and welfare by enabling them to live free from harm, abuse and neglect.

As a charity regulated by the Charity Commission for England and Wales (the "Charity Commission"), PLP recognise that we have a duty to ensure that we have measures in place to protect anybody who comes into contact with our charity from harm, and to not cause harm through our work.

For the purposes of this policy the term 'clients' refers to our casework clients and the term 'service users' includes anyone else using or engaging with any of PLP's other services.

Our responsibilities therefore include safeguarding:

- clients and service users from PLP staff, trustees, volunteers or activities;
- clients and service users from others who seek to abuse, exploit or harm them;
- clients and service users who may cause harm to themselves; and
- others whom our clients or service users might seek to abuse, exploit or harm.

Whilst PLP's activities are primarily delivered to adults, we recognise that we may on occasion come into contact with children, and that risks affecting the adults we serve may be transferrable to children in their lives. Safeguarding at PLP includes:

Adults at risk	Abbreviation for 'adults at risk of harm' - any person who is aged 18 years or over and is experiencing or is at risk of abuse/neglect and has needs for care and support and as a result of those needs is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it—sometimes previously referred to as 'vulnerable adults'.
Children and young people	People under 18 years of age. This also includes under 18s on work-experience placements, interns, volunteers or under 18s working at PLP.

Being 'at risk' can fluctuate: someone may be vulnerable in one situation and not in another. As a result, it may not always be easy to identify risk of harm, and it is important not to feel inhibited about sensitively asking for more information.

Factors in our context that might indicate that an adult is at risk may include:

- mental ill health or other emotional vulnerability such as feelings of shame or isolation
- immigration status or problems within their immigration case (such as refusal of asylum claim)
- detention in a custodial setting or otherwise being deprived of their liberty
- homelessness or other destitution
- lack of formal education
- learning or other disability
- illness
- age
- physical isolation and conversely domination by a crowd.

Abuse is broadly defined as someone being caused harm or distress and includes physical, emotional or mental pain. For further information about the types and indicators of abuse, see [Appendix 1](#) and [Appendix 2](#).

Roles and responsibilities

All staff, volunteers and interns

All staff, regardless of their position at PLP, are responsible for:

- Complying with their duty to safeguard the welfare of all children, young people, and adults at risk;
- Reading and adhering to this Policy and safeguarding practices;
- Attending any related training or undertaking any related assessments on safeguarding;
- Reporting safeguarding concerns based on conduct they suspect, witness or are made aware of.

The Safeguarding Lead Team

The Designated Safeguarding Lead (Safeguarding Lead) has overarching responsibility within the staff team for safeguarding across PLP. They will record allegations, reports, investigations, outcomes and follow up action in accordance with this policy. The Deputy Safeguarding Lead discharges the duties of the Safeguarding Lead when they are not available. When this policy requires a notification to the Safeguarding Lead, staff should instead notify the Deputy Safeguarding Lead if the Safeguarding Lead is not available.

The Casework Safeguarding Lead has responsibility for safeguarding within the casework team. They will either be a qualified solicitor or barrister so that professional legal duties owed to clients can be considered together with safeguarding concerns where appropriate and to ensure safeguarding practices are effectively implemented and monitored within casework - which is PLP's highest area of risk.

The Casework Safeguarding Lead and Safeguarding Lead work in partnership to ensure the duties of the Safeguarding Lead are fulfilled within the context of casework. Though the Casework Safeguarding Lead will usually be the most appropriate initial contact for

safeguarding concerns and incidents within casework, the Safeguarding Lead's duties and responsibilities continue to include the casework team and reports and consultations can be made to the Safeguarding Lead or their deputy instead or as well as the Casework Safeguarding Lead. Where this policy requires a notification to the Casework Safeguarding Lead, staff should instead notify the Safeguarding Lead or the Deputy Safeguarding Lead plus one of the Lead Lawyers if the Casework Safeguarding Lead is unavailable.

Trustees

Trustees of charities like PLP have the ultimate responsibility for the actions of their charity, including the effectiveness of its safeguarding provisions.

PLP's trustees must ensure that safeguarding people from harm is central to our culture and implemented throughout our operations, and that risk is effectively identified and managed to achieve this.

The Finance and Risk Committee (FARCOM) appoints one of its members to act as a designated Safeguarding Trustee. The Safeguarding Trustee, the Chair of FARCOM (where different) and Chair of trustees FARCOM) are all appropriate trustees to approach with any concerns or suggestions regarding safeguarding.

Safer working practices

All staff and trustees are expected to play their part to prevent and take action to reduce the likelihood of safeguarding incidents occurring including through:

- Fostering a culture of duty to safeguard and empowerment to raise concerns with confidence.
- Prioritising the interests of clients and service users over those of PLP. This includes risk-assessing our activities to ensure they are conducted as safely as is practicable.
- Operating under a principle of consent and collaboration in that - absent circumstances where it would place the client or service user or others at risk - we seek the client or service user's consent to our proposed safeguarding response.
- Operating in compliance with the principles under the Mental Capacity Act 2005.
- We raise awareness with our clients and service users about our expectations and approaches to safeguarding by:
 - publishing this policy on our website;
 - providing clients and service users access to this policy;
 - ensuring clear channels for anyone to report safeguarding concerns.
- Members of staff will, where practicable, avoid working alone in the office when seeing clients or service users, or conducting lone visits to meet clients or service users elsewhere. Where this is not possible, or in urgent situations, staff should notify the Safeguarding Lead/Casework Safeguarding Lead. It is best practice to:
 - ensure clients or service users have left the office by 5pm at the latest – or earlier if you are aware that colleagues are likely to have left the office;
 - if a meeting continues past 5pm take steps to ask colleagues to stay in the office until the meeting concludes if possible.

- Avoid unnecessary physical contact with children and adults at risk and any behaviour that might make others feel unsafe or uncomfortable or could be misinterpreted.
- Ensure that communication with clients and service users is always through professional channels, avoiding sharing personal contact or social media details.
- When working with casework clients under 18, we will consider the need for that child/young person to be accompanied by a parent, guardian or other support worker while also being mindful of the risk of conflict/undue influence and our professional obligations to our client, including in relation to confidentiality. The approach in each case should be approved by the Casework Safeguarding Lead.

Managing concerns

PLP staff may recognise the signs of abuse and neglect or receive information that alerts them to the risk of it.

When a safeguarding concern or incident arises staff and trustees are expected to play their part to **assess, respond to, report** and **manage** the risk of harm, abuse and neglect affecting PLP clients and/or service users.

At the same time, PLP recognises the importance of our obligations of confidentiality, data protection and, in certain circumstances, legal professional privilege which are addressed further below.

Assess and respond

- Be watchful for, and aware of, signs that a child, young person, or adult at risk may be in need of help or protection;
- Be watchful for signs that a person working with children, young people, or adults at risk (whether at PLP or a partner organisation) may abuse or pose a risk of harm to them;
- If you discover a harmful act whilst it is happening – your first duty is to do your best to stop the act. This could involve:
 - drawing further attention to the incident by alerting colleagues;
 - attempting to de-escalate a situation where someone is behaving aggressively;
 - removing service users or third parties from the situation.
- Prioritise your safety - you are not expected nor trained to behave like a member of the emergency services. The most appropriate action may be to call the emergency services rather than seek to become involved yourself if it is unsafe for you to do so.
- Share safeguarding concerns with the Safeguarding Lead/Casework Safeguarding Lead as soon as possible to help you respond. Safeguarding decisions should not be taken alone where that can be avoided.
- Take actions appropriate to the situation as necessary to ensure immediate safety.
- Consider sharing with the service user a simple safety plan of action, including contacting identified third parties and/or emergency services should risk escalate.
- If you receive a disclosure, make time and space to listen carefully to the individual. You must not promise confidentiality: you will need to disclose your obligation to record the

conversation and, where appropriate, to share safeguarding information internally, and potentially with appropriate external agencies.

- You should tell the person that they will be kept informed of any action taken unless this would frustrate the point of making a disclosure.

Document the interaction and any actions you have taken and share these with the Safeguarding Lead/Casework Safeguarding Lead if you are not immediately in a position to make a full report in accordance with the guidance below.

Responding to mental health concerns

Where a safeguarding incident relates to mental health, consider the following guidance:

- If the service user is in immediate physical danger or is alone or without a safety plan (such as being in the presence of family or carer) do not end a call or leave them alone. Try to keep them talking or take them with you until you can consult your supervisor/ Safeguarding Lead.
- Where this is not possible, inform your Safeguarding Lead/Casework Safeguarding Lead at the earliest opportunity for support on next steps. This may result in a joint decision being taken about calling an ambulance to send the service user to A&E, always seeking to involve the service user and seek their consent first where possible.
- If a client or service user discloses risk information (such as that they are considering attempting to take their own life), try to get as much information as practicable, thinking about the information and suggestions above. In particular ensure that you have a contact number/contact information for the client or service user.
- If appropriate, provide basic psychoeducation; for example, acknowledge that it may have been difficult to share about their situation, seek to reduce shame and provide reassurance that their feelings are common in their situation.
- If appropriate, provide a simple step-by-step plan of appropriate action to take, for example refer to appropriate specialist providers of mental health crisis support such as Samaritans (see the Helpful Resources section at page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**) and/or emergency services.
- Please also follow the general guidance in relation to assessing and reporting of safeguarding risks set out above.

Reporting and managing concerns and disclosures

When you become aware of a concern or receive a disclosure, you must promptly report it to the Safeguarding Lead/Casework Safeguarding Lead. They will support you in any immediate actions that are required to keep the individual safe.

Please note: for concerns arising in casework, please refer to the section: [Managing safeguarding concerns in casework](#).

Following this:

- Once we have become aware of a risk, and any immediate responses have been taken and immediate reports made, a written risk assessment is required to be undertaken as soon as practicable.
- A written assessment should use the concern report to document:
 - the identified risk
 - relevant context affecting the severity of the risk
 - any actions or mitigations already taken (include referrals or contacts made) and an assessment of the current severity of the risk (consider impact and likelihood)
 - what has been agreed with the client or service user
 - any further actions to be taken by PLP staff.
- An assessment does not need to duplicate existing documentation, for example, on the client's or service user's file.
- Where the concern relates to a child, young person, or adult at risk, this may require a referral to children's social care services, adult's safeguarding services, the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO), and, if and as necessary, the police, upon prior notification of the Safeguarding Lead.
- The Safeguarding Trustee will be informed of all allegations of abuse involving a staff member or trustee at PLP unless inappropriate in the specific circumstances.
- The Company Secretary will be informed if necessary to ensure PLP makes a serious incident report to the Charity Commission in accordance with Charity Commission guidance.

The Safeguarding Lead will ensure that risk is continually monitored and reviewed in collaboration with others to ensure coordinated and timely management of cases.

Managing safeguarding concerns in casework

PLP employs lawyers to deliver casework with and on behalf of clients. Solicitors and those who work with them have high professional standards with clear expectations around ethical behaviour, for example the Solicitor's Regulation Authority ('SRA') Standards and Regulations.

Solicitors have both a duty of confidentiality and a duty of care to act in their clients' best interests. PLP recognises that these duties are in and of themselves a useful safeguard for clients. However, there may be circumstances involving children or adults at risk where information is disclosed as part of the solicitor-client relationship that indicates their health or welfare is seriously at risk due to abuse or harm, or where such harm was historic but there is an ongoing concern that serious risk of future harm remains current.

In these situations, solicitors must carefully balance their professional duties, and there may be instances that justify breaching the duty of confidentiality to protect the client or another person, or prevent a criminal offence being committed.

Factors that may be considered in this balancing exercise include:

- Whether the client is a child and not in a position to take steps to protect themselves.
- Whether the client has capacity to consent to disclosure of confidential information.

- Whether the client has capacity but because of their circumstances they are not in a position to take steps to protect themselves from harm, for example they are acting under the undue influence, duress or coercion of another person.
- Whether the client lacks capacity to consent to disclosure of confidential information and is not in a position to take steps to protect themselves from harm.
- The nature of the safeguarding concern and seriousness of risk of harm in the event of no action being taken, or whether other people such as children could also be at risk. For example, if there is a risk to the person's life, immediate action should be taken.

In considering the disclosure of information without a client's consent, the following should be considered:

- Attempting to discuss the concerns with the client to obtain their agreement to taking steps to prevent the harm, where appropriate.
- Carefully assessing who the most appropriate person to disclose concerns to would be. This may be a family member, local authority safeguarding team, GP or other healthcare provider or police.
- Only disclosing information which is strictly necessary.
- Keeping an attendance note on the client file detailing the concerns and rationale for the decision made regarding whether to disclose.

Where there is an apparent conflict between safeguarding and professional obligations the Casework Safeguarding Lead will:

- Consult the Legal Director (if different from the Casework Safeguarding Lead) on appropriate next steps,
- Refer to [SRA and IAA guidance on the client confidentiality duty](#),
- Take legal advice if appropriate,
- Ensure that decisions taken and the rationale are recorded on the client file.

Where a conflict between safeguarding and professional obligations has been established, this policy does not require staff to act against their professional obligations, and PLP recognise that it is a decision for each regulated professional to take.

Information sharing, storage and retention

PLP recognise the highly confidential nature of information relating to safeguarding and the importance of the need to take careful decisions when sharing this outside of our organisation, with other statutory safeguarding agencies.

Where safeguarding concerns relate to a child, we recognise that sharing this information to protect that child takes priority over privacy, including the privacy of a person failing to protect them. Where there is a risk of, or actual, harm, we may share information about a child without consent.

We will ordinarily seek to inform a child's parent or carer before sharing safeguarding information. However, where this may increase risk to a child, we will share without doing so.

With regard to adults at risk, we will wherever possible seek consent from the individual at risk. We will be open and honest about why, what, how, when and with whom their information will be shared.

Where consent to share is refused, there may be instances where safeguarding information may still be shared. This will be a decision taken in consultation within PLP, for example when:

- The person is at serious risk of harm or abuse, including of harming themselves
- Where there is an indication that a serious crime has been or is going to be committed
- Where others, including children, are or may be at risk
- The person appears to lack the mental capacity to decide, and we agree it is in the person's best interest to share
- PLP staff are implicated
- The person is being coerced or under duress

Please note: for information sharing in casework, please refer to [Managing safeguarding concerns in casework](#).

Safeguarding records, including reports and disclosures, are held securely within PLP. Access to any such records is restricted to ensure that only those with a direct need to see them are able to, to fulfil their safeguarding duties.

Safeguarding records are stored in line with PLP's data retention policy, and for no longer than is required, at which point they are securely destroyed. Please see our Data Protection and Information Security Policy for further information.

Handling allegations about staff

This section can be read in conjunction with the Whistleblowing Policy and Complaints Policy.

Any clients or service users wishing to report abuse/exploitation by a member of staff can report it using the procedure in this policy. All clients and service users must be informed of this, and where to find the policy.

PLP is committed to the highest possible standards of openness, honesty and accountability. In line with that commitment, we actively encourage all of our staff members (including consultants or third parties working for us), clients and service users who have serious concerns about any aspect of our work, including abuse/exploitation, to voice them. An allegation may relate to a person who works with children who has:

- Behaved in a way that has harmed a child, or may have harmed a child;
- Possibly committed a criminal offence against or related to a child; or
- Behaved towards a child or children in a way that indicates they may pose a risk of harm to children.
- Behaved or may have behaved in a way that indicates they may not be suitable to work with children.

PLP staff must immediately inform the Safeguarding Lead of any such allegation against a member of staff or PLP trustee. In the event that the allegation concerns the Safeguarding Lead, the report should be made instead to the CEO, or Chair of Trustees.

The Safeguarding Lead must report all allegations of abuse of adults at risk or children by PLP staff or trustees working in the UK to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) or an alternative appropriate authority, as soon as possible. This will usually mean within 1

business day of the allegation coming to light. It may also be appropriate to refer any such reports to the relevant local child or adult protection authority.

We will work with the LADO or other appropriate authority to coordinate investigation and next steps. Any abuse or exploitation by a staff member found, following investigation, to have taken place will be treated as gross misconduct and the appropriate response will be taken in line with the Disciplinary Procedure. We recognise our duty to make referrals to the DBS in this instance.

PLP may at any time suspend staff following allegations of abuse for a reasonable period whilst investigations are carried out. During suspension we may require the staff member to not attend any of our premises and not to have contact with some or all other employees. Suspension does not imply guilt. Suspension will usually be on full pay and other contractual benefits will continue as normal.

The carer of the child should be kept informed of any information of abuse/ exploitation disclosed and shared as far as is appropriate and does not risk the protection of the child.

Training

Safeguarding is required for all PLP staff and is proportionately targeted in terms of depth and frequency to best ensure the safety of those at risk.

The Safeguarding Lead is responsible for monitoring that training is taking place within this framework and that the reviews mentioned below take place within 12 months.

All staff

PLP's staff will be given a briefing on safeguarding as part of their induction and are required to attest to having read this policy. A review to ensure all staff have received such a briefing and have read the policy will be carried out periodically.

All staff receive a refresher at least every 24 months on the key elements of this policy and their responsibilities. This may be at staff meetings, away days or through online resources.

Staff working within areas of additional focus as set out in this policy will receive training tailored to their work at least once every 18 months. Staff joining these areas for the first time will receive an induction in their specific responsibilities from a senior team member.

Lawyers are trained to identify vulnerabilities in clients and how to address linked needs, including what steps to take when an allegation of abuse is made or detected. Where possible safeguarding training designed or tailored specifically for solicitors will be provided given the added complexity of their context and the balancing of their professional obligations with safeguarding requirements.

Safeguarding Leads

PLP's Safeguarding Lead Team receive safeguarding training delivered by an external safeguarding expert upon assuming those responsibilities unless they can demonstrate that they have received equivalent or superior training in a previous role within the last three years. This training must be refreshed every 3 years during their holding of the role.

PLP's Safeguarding Lead Team are supported to continually reflect on their needs for training and development and undertake relevant continued professional development at least every 12 months for example by completing the 'Safeguarding Matters' online training.

This includes ensuring continued awareness of relevant developments in the law and policy of the field.

Trustees

Trustees are provided with safeguarding training relevant to their role, including understanding their responsibilities in safeguarding governance.

Any designated Safeguarding Trustee will undertake appropriate training. They will take steps to renew their training and awareness of developments in safeguarding law and policy.

Safer recruitment

PLP have a Recruitment and Selection Policy which details our approach to ensuring that our workforce are suitable and appropriate. This includes ensuring their ability to uphold our safeguarding expectations and protect people. The following summarises our steps to ensure this:

- Our recruiting staff are suitably trained in applying our safer-recruitment expectations, including in the conduct of pre-employment checks.
- We conduct risk assessments to determine which roles require a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) (or other relevant) check. We consider both statutory/ regulatory requirements, and the level of contact with potentially vulnerable groups. This includes anyone acting for a child under our immigration legal aid contract, who require an enhanced DBS check in the last 24 months.
- We make our commitment to safeguarding clear in our job adverts, including whether DBS checks are required, and information regarding the recruitment of ex-offenders.
- We assess a candidate's attitudes and ability to safeguard at interview.
- When conducting DBS or other criminal record checks, we risk assess any information revealed to determine suitability.
- References are sought at recruitment stage, and we recruit in line with our organisational equality principles. We do not confirm appointments prior to references being received.

Whistleblowing

PLP are committed to openness, integrity and accountability and we recognise the importance of individuals being able to speak up about concerns they have about our organisation and the way in which we conduct ourselves. This includes concerns about safeguarding and safety.

We maintain a Whistleblowing Policy which details our approach and procedure, and the protections in place for those who report such concerns.

Monitoring and review

This policy, and any associated procedures or guidance, undergo regular monitoring and quality assurance. This policy is reviewed at least annually, or earlier where required due to statutory, regulatory or practice changes.

PLP's Board of Trustees is responsible for reviewing the effectiveness of our safeguarding framework, and as such FARCOM are presented with relevant updates and reports on our safeguarding activities, together with any incidents reportable to the Charity Commission.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Types and indicators of abuse – adult safeguarding

1. Physical Abuse Causing physical harm or injury (e.g. hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint). Signs and Indicators: • Unexplained injuries (bruises, burns, fractures) • Frequent hospital visits • Person flinching or cowering • Signs of restraint (marks on wrists) • Fear of particular individuals	2. Domestic Abuse Abuse between partners or family members. Can include physical, sexual, emotional, financial, or coercive control. Signs and Indicators: • Frequent unexplained injuries • Withdrawal or anxiety • Isolation from friends/family • Low self-esteem • Partner speaking for the person or not leaving them alone
3. Sexual Abuse Involving a person in sexual activities without consent or capacity to consent. Signs and Indicators: • Bruising or injuries around genitals/breasts • Difficulty walking or sitting • Sexually transmitted infections • Changes in sexual behaviour or language	4. Psychological / Emotional Abuse Emotional harm through threats, humiliation, intimidation, verbal abuse, or isolation. Signs and Indicators: • Low self-esteem • Anxiety, depression • Fearfulness or agitation • Avoiding eye contact • Self-harm
5. Financial or Material Abuse Description: Misuse, theft, or fraud involving money, property, or belongings. Signs and Indicators: • Unexplained loss of money/assets • Unpaid bills despite income • Sudden changes in wills or financial documents, or unexplained loss or misplacement of financial documents • Someone else controlling their finances/ being unable to access own money	6. Modern Slavery Exploitation of individuals through forced labour, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, human trafficking. Signs and Indicators: • Malnourishment • Signs of physical abuse • Always accompanied by another person/ under influence of another • Fearful, withdrawn, or anxious • Lack of personal identification documents or personal possessions • Living and working at the same address/ cramped or overcrowded living conditions

7. Discriminatory Abuse Unequal treatment based on characteristics like race, gender, disability, sexuality, age, religion. Signs and Indicators: • Derogatory language or slurs • Exclusion from activities or services • Withdrawal or depression • Low self-esteem • Fear around specific people or groups	8. Organisational / Institutional Abuse Poor care or neglect in settings like hospitals, care homes, supported living, often due to culture, routines, or practices. Signs and Indicators: • Lack of personal choice • Rigid routines • Poor hygiene or living conditions • Excessive medication use • Fear of staff or management
9. Neglect and Acts of Omission Failing to meet a person's basic needs (food, hygiene, medical care, supervision). Signs and Indicators: • Malnutrition or dehydration • Poor personal hygiene • Untreated medical conditions • Dirty clothing or living environment • Withdrawal or depression	10. Self-Neglect When an adult fails to care for their own health, hygiene, or living conditions, putting their well-being at risk. Signs and Indicators: • Hoarding • Unsafe living conditions • Poor personal hygiene • Malnutrition or dehydration • Refusal of services or help

Appendix 2: Types and indicators of abuse – child safeguarding

1. Physical Abuse Physically hurting a child by hitting, shaking, burning, scalding, poisoning, suffocating, or causing other physical harm. It also includes fabricated or induced illness. Signs and Indicators: • Unexplained injuries • Injuries at different stages of healing • Child flinching or avoiding touch • Wearing clothes inappropriate for weather (to cover injuries) • Fear of going home or certain adults	2. Emotional Abuse Persistent emotional maltreatment harming a child's development. Includes constant criticism, threats, rejection, or exposure to domestic abuse. Signs and Indicators: • Low self-esteem • Developmental delays • Anxious, withdrawn, or overly compliant • Sudden changes in behaviour • Inappropriate emotional responses
3. Sexual Abuse Forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. Includes contact and non-contact abuse (e.g. sexual touching, exploitation, exposure to pornography). Signs and Indicators: • Sexual knowledge or behaviour inappropriate for age • Difficulty walking or sitting • Bruising or bleeding in genital areas • Sexualised drawings or language • Avoiding certain people or places	4. Neglect Persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, resulting in serious harm to health or development. Signs and Indicators: • Poor hygiene, dirty clothing • Constant hunger or stealing food • Untreated medical issues • Fatigue or listlessness • Poor school attendance or concentration
Contextual Safeguarding Contextual safeguarding recognises that the risk of harm to children often occurs beyond their home — in places and contexts like peer groups, schools, online and neighbourhoods. PLP recognise that we must be alert to the risks posed from all the environments where young people spend time. Examples of Contextual Safeguarding: • Peer-on-peer abuse: Bullying, sexual assault, initiation rituals in schools • Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE): Gang involvement, county lines drug running • Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE): Older individuals exploiting young people sexually, often using gifts, money, or affection as manipulation • Online grooming: social media or gaming platforms used to exploit/ abuse children • Child trafficking and modern slavery: The moving of children into or around within the UK	