



Department of
**Health, Social Services
and Public Safety**
www.dhsspsni.gov.uk



Department of
Justice
www.dojni.gov.uk

Our plan about keeping people safe



July 2015





Who we are

We are part of the Government in Northern Ireland.

What this plan is about

This plan is about keeping adults safe and well.

Everyone has the right to be safe.

But sometimes people are treated very badly.

This may happen to some people more than others.

This plan is about making sure these people are safe and get the right support.

This plan says what we think should happen.



What does treated badly mean?

There are lots of ways to treat someone badly.

For example:



- hitting them or hurting them in some way



- taking their money or things



- doing sexual things to them that they do not want

- leaving them without the care they need



We want everyone to work together to stop these bad things happening.

What we want to happen

We want everyone to be safe and well.

We want everyone to work together to make this happen. For example:

- the Government
- health and care staff
- the Police and courts
- local groups
- families and friends
- everyone else

We want everyone to:

- know who may be unsafe
- do what they can to help people be safe

This will help to stop problems happening in the first place.

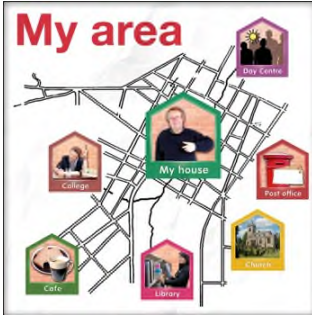


There are lots of ways to help people be safe and well.



For example, by making sure they:

- know how to be safe
- can take part in things in their local area
- get good healthcare
- can do things by themselves where possible



Some people need more support than others to keep safe.

But it is important that:

- everyone gets the right support to be safe
- people know what to do if someone is unsafe
- people speak up if they are worried



Keeping you safe



There are groups that run lots of things in your area like:

- doctors and hospitals
- banks and shops
- sports places
- colleges



These groups should do everything they can to keep you safe.

They should know what the law says.



They should have good rules about things like:

- good training and support for staff
- treating people fairly
- how to keep people safe
- how to know if someone may be unsafe
- what to do about it





Some groups should do more.

For example, groups that give you healthcare or other care and support.



These groups should have:

- a plan about keeping people safe
- someone who makes sure the plan happens and can give staff good support



There should be good checks to make sure these groups are doing the right things.

The people who do the checks must do something about bad care.



You should get information about what your care and support should be like.

This will help you know if something is wrong.

What if there is a problem?



Sometimes there may be a problem.

You may feel unsafe.

Or you may be worried about someone else.



People who may be unsafe should get more support as soon as possible.

If you are worried you can tell someone you trust.

They can talk to someone who can help you.



If you feel unsafe you should get help from staff at your local HSC Trust.

HSC Trusts give people healthcare and other care.



Staff should work with you to find out:

- how safe you are
- what you want and need

You should decide together what is best for you.



You may look at things like:

- if you are in danger
- what you want to happen
- if you find it hard to make your own choices



You may decide that you need support like:

- extra support to live at home
- support to make choices



You may also have a problem with your care that needs sorting out.

Or you may decide that you are very unsafe and need more help.



If you are very unsafe or need help quickly



You should get support from:

- people called the Adult Protection Service
- the Police if a crime may have happened



What these groups should do

There are lots of rules the groups must follow to work in the right way.

The Adult Protection Service



Staff should work with you to decide what support you need.

Staff should always:

- listen to what you want and need
- make sure you get your rights



Staff may have to work with other groups like:

- the Police
- people who check care places
- people who give care and support

There will be rules for how they should work together.



A manager with the right training will be in charge of what happens.

They need to look at lots of things with you so you can both decide what is best for you.



The Police

The Police should help you stay safe and get the right support.



They should help you get the right support to say what happened to you.

This could be extra support if you need it. You can also get support to speak up in court.



Making decisions

Some people find it very hard to make their own decisions.

If you find this hard you should get the right support to:

- make your own decisions
- be part of any decisions that are made about you



The law says sometimes other people can make decisions for you.

But only if everyone is sure you cannot make your own decisions at that time.

Training and learning

Staff who are there to keep people safe should have the right training. They should keep learning and seeing if they can do things better.

