

## Adult Safeguarding Self Neglect Criteria Factsheet

### What is the purpose of the Self Neglect Panel?

The purpose of the self-neglect panel is to provide a multi-agency forum for adults at risk who do not engage with any agencies, or services, in an attempt to agree if there are any further actions that any agencies can take to minimise the risk to the adult, or others. Care Act (2014) duties apply to an adult over the age of eighteen.

### The criteria for referral into self-neglect panel

The adult has needs for care and support (whether the local authority is meeting any of those needs or not) and is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse, or neglect. As a result of those care and support needs the adult is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of, abuse, or neglect.

- The adult **HAS** mental capacity to make unwise decisions and choices about their life.
- The adult's decision making means they are unable to protect themselves from the risk of serious harm from themselves, or others.
- Serious harm (physical, or psychological) which is life threatening and/or traumatic and is viewed to be imminent, or very likely to occur.
- The adult is **not engaging** with health and social care services to reduce the risk of harm or death.

### Consideration should be given to the following circumstances

- There is a **public safety** interest.
- There is a high-level **concern from partner agencies**.
- Where all **interventions, protection and action plans have failed to safeguard**.

### Self-neglect panel should only be undertaken in the following circumstances:

- Where an adult has the mental capacity to make the decision(s) that is creating significant concern for multi-agencies about the adult's safety and/or well-being (risk of serious injury / death).  
**AND**
- The Adult is exposed to risk and is making an unwise decision of their own free will – the risk arises from the adult's refusal to work with services and / or self-neglect in one, or more areas of their lives.  
**AND / OR**

- Where existing care management and health and social care involvement has failed to resolve the issues around exploitation and safeguarding as the adult is continuing to make an unwise decision of their own free will.

**AND**

- The adult has been signposted to partner agencies (based on need) to ensure they have had the opportunity to intervene and provide support in a timely manner.
- However, the adult continues to make an unwise decision of their own free will not to engage with the support offered.

**Prior to referral to the self-neglect panel please ensure that:**

- You have made every attempt to engage family / friends.
- The Lead enquirer has coordinated multi-agency safeguarding meetings in response to concerns of exploitation and vulnerability.
- Attempts have been made to resolve the issues and concerns under risk management plans, but these have failed to address the issues and concerns.
- On-going risky behaviour from others, or from themselves, continues to cause significant concerns.
- You have referred to the self-neglect toolkit when working with adults at risk of self-neglect.
- Consent for holding a self-neglect panel should be obtained from the adult themselves wherever possible, and the adult **should** be encouraged to participate in the process.
- However, a lack of consent would not prevent such a meeting from taking place. Under common law a person may act to prevent serious harm from occurring if there is a necessity to do so.

Please take time to read the full guide for Professionals:  
<https://www.wigansafeguardingadults.org/Docs/Guidance/self-neglect-guidance.pdf>

**Support and Advice**

The Adult Safeguarding Team are available to support the  
Locality and Hospital Advanced Practitioners.

If you feel that you require this, please do not hesitate to contact one of the  
Safeguarding Advanced Practitioners:

Deborah Roberts (07917 200 102)  
Stephanie Vaal (07970 544 834)