

## Carers and safeguarding

Circumstances in which a carer (for example, a family member or friend) could be involved in a situation that may require a safeguarding response include:

- a carer may witness or speak up about abuse or neglect
- a carer may experience intentional or unintentional harm from the adult they are trying to support or from professionals and organisations they are in contact with, or
- a carer may unintentionally or intentionally harm or neglect the adult they support on their own or with others.

**Practitioner:** In such a case, consider the wellbeing of both the adult at risk and the carer in your assessment. Explore the person's circumstances and consider whether it would be possible to provide information or support that prevents abuse or neglect from occurring, for example, by providing training to the carer about the condition that the adult they care for has or to support them to care more safely. Where that is necessary make arrangements for providing it. Check whether the carer has mental health needs, and if so, whether they are known to Mental Health services. The [Carers Support Centre Croydon](#) can also offer information, advice and support. If a carer speaks up about abuse or neglect, it is essential that you listen to them and, where appropriate, undertake a safeguarding enquiry.

In some circumstances the carer may need to have independent representation or advocacy; in others, a carer may benefit from having such support if they are under great stress. Consider whether other agencies should be involved; in some circumstances where a criminal offence is suspected this may include alerting the police, or in others the primary healthcare services may need to be involved in monitoring.

Involve carer(s) in safeguarding enquiries if the adult they care for gives consent, unless there are specific reasons not to do so (for example, that the carer is involved in causing abuse or neglect).