

North Somerset Multi-Agency Adult Safeguarding Procedures



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Right Care Right Person Initiative

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Introduction

This document serves to inform partners about the Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) initiative. The Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) approach is a national policy in the UK aimed at ensuring that individuals with health or social care needs—especially those experiencing mental health crises—receive support from the most appropriate professionals, rather than defaulting to a police response.

The RCRP initiative aims to:

- Ensure that all safeguarding partners are aware of the [National Partnership Agreement: Right Care, Right Person \(RCRP\)](#) and its objectives. The RCRP highlights the importance of involving the most appropriate agency to provide care and support to vulnerable individuals.
- Promote a consistent approach across different agencies.
- Enhance the efficiency of responses to incidents involving vulnerable people who should receive support from the most appropriate professionals, rather than defaulting to a police response.
- Encourage collaboration between all agencies, fostering a cooperative environment to better serve the needs of vulnerable individuals.
- Ensure that actions taken by professionals are legally justified, proportionate, and necessary.
- Emphasize the importance of safeguarding vulnerable individuals, this document aims to protect those at immediate risk of harm.

Overall, the document serves as a quick guide to help professionals understand and implement the RCRP initiative effectively, ensuring that vulnerable people receive the best possible care and support.

Right Care Right Person

The primary aim of RCRP is to ensure members of the public get the best possible care from the most appropriate service.

RCRP is supported by a National Partnership Agreement, a collective national commitment from the Home Office, Department of Health & Social Care, the National Police Chiefs' Council, Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, and NHS England to work to end the involvement of police in responding to incidents involving

people with mental health needs where such involvement is inappropriate and avoidable.

The deployment of police officers should always be carefully considered and stand up to rigorous scrutiny to demonstrate the deployment was justified, proportionate and necessary. Under no circumstances should the default position be to deploy police without first considering the RCRP threshold and whether there is a more suitable agency to respond to the incident.

The threshold for a police response under RCRP is to:

- Investigate, prevent or detect, a crime that has occurred or is occurring.
- Protect people when there is a real and immediate risk to the life of a person.
- Protect people when they are at a real and immediate risk of being subject to serious harm.
- Protect a child subject to a real and immediate risk of significant harm.

The police will apply this threshold when considering Concern for Safety and Suicidal incidents, with it directly reflecting the legal responsibilities for the police to act and in turn their legal powers to do so. This will enable the police to direct their resources to the most serious concerns and to involve the most appropriate agency at the right time for the benefit of those at risk.

If the report does not meet the RCRP threshold then appropriate signposting may be given to the individual, but no further action will be taken by the Police. There would be no facility to raise a safeguarding adults concern as these calls would have been declined at source.

Similarly, where the threshold is met, but another agency has been identified to take the lead, such as Ambulance Service, then they will take the lead in raising a safeguarding concern.

If the police take the lead, they will raise a safeguarding concern where appropriate to do so.

If there is a real and immediate risk to life or of serious harm', always dial 999.

Police welfare checks

The police may undertake welfare checks under the following circumstances:

- There is an identifiable and immediate risk to life.
- The vulnerable person at risk of suffering immediate harm.

It is important to note that where these conditions exist it may be more appropriate for another agency to attend. For example, an overdose is a real and immediate risk to life but there is an agreement with South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWASFT) that they would likely need to be the lead agency due to the medical nature and intervention required.