

## **Factsheet 5**

# **What is a Section 42 Safeguarding Strategy Meeting?**

February 2016  
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## What is a Strategy Meeting?

A strategy meeting will not be necessary in all cases, where a discussion will suffice. However in more complex cases a meeting will be useful.

The purpose of a Strategy Meeting is to share, discuss and consider the known evidence and agree Safeguarding Protection actions and formal Safeguarding Section 42 Enquiry actions as appropriate.

This may include:

- The creation or revision of a Protection or Support Plan to address needs and risks
- Consider any potential Criminal element to the abuse and neglect
- Consider any actions needed to reduce the future risk of harm.

## When might a Strategy Meeting be called?

- Where the health and safety of the adult is, or may be, compromised and Protection and Enquiry Actions may be required.
- To make sure effective risk management arrangements are in place.
- To consider what legal or statutory actions or redress may be needed.
- Where the allegations indicate a potential Criminal Investigation may be required.
- Where there are previous safeguarding concerns that indicate that the risk may be higher than originally thought.
- Where there are numerous agencies that can offer support and protection

## What will the Strategy Meeting discuss?

- Issues associated to the mental capacity of the adult and those involved.
- Whether safeguarding protection is needed and if so, what actions are needed to reduce the risk of harm to the adult.
- The views of the adult and what they want any safeguarding action to achieve.
- The health, social care, communication, cultural needs or other specific needs of the adult.
- The likelihood, severity and potential impact of risks to the health, safety and wellbeing of the adult.
- Any potential risks to children and agreement on who will arrange a Child Protection referral, where necessary.
- Whether issues affect other adults and if the care of those adults is funded by other Local Authorities, to arrange for proper notification to those Authorities.
- Whether the adult remains at risk of abuse or neglect and whether they need a Safeguarding Protection Plan. A Protection Plan records any arrangements

that have been agreed with the adult about the actions needed, and who by, to keep them safe.

The Safeguarding Adults Manager will decide who to invite and chair the Strategy Meeting.

## If the adult does not wish to attend

The meeting is about the adult, but they do not have to attend. It's their choice. If they are worried about attending, they may wish to talk to the Safeguarding Adults Manager or allocated worker. They will be able to talk to the adult about any concerns they may have.

If the adult decides not to come they may want to do one of the following instead:

- give their views in writing, or
- ask someone to attend on their behalf, for example an advocate, friend or family member, or
- ask the Safeguarding worker or Safeguarding Adults Manager to pass on their views

## If the adult does wish to attend

The adult can bring someone to support them at the meeting. This might be a family member, friend or an advocate.

The meeting is about the adult and their views and wishes about what should happen are very important. The Chair of the meeting will make sure the adult's views are heard and listened to by everyone else.

The meeting will need to decide what actions need to take place and by who to make the adult safer and improve their wellbeing. This will be a group decision and the adult's views will form part of this decision.

A Protection Plan may be agreed - this is about how the adult wants to be supported to be safe. Decisions about the adult's welfare or care will in most cases need to be agreed with them. However, depending on the risk, their engagement and wider public interest actions may need to be taken without their agreement.

If the adult has been assessed as not having mental capacity to make a particular decision, then it will need to be made in their 'best interests'. Their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs will be taken into account. Such decisions are made in line with Mental Capacity Act 2005.

More details about the Strategy Meeting can be found in the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures which can be downloaded from: [www.rbsab.org](http://www.rbsab.org)

## Who else will be at the Meeting?

There may be range of people at the meeting.

- The Safeguarding Adults Manager and the Safeguarding Enquiry Practitioner
- Professionals who have been involved in the Enquiry, sometimes this may include the police or a health professional
- Care Quality Commission
- Agencies or people who provide the adult with support or care
- A person recording the minutes of the meeting

Everyone attending the meeting will be sent the minutes of the meeting within two weeks. If anyone thinks anything has been recorded wrongly, they can ask the Chair for amendments to be considered.

If anyone disagrees with the suggestions for the Protection Plan they can say so at the meeting. If anyone has concerns after the meeting, they can speak to the Safeguarding Adults Manager.

More details about Strategy meetings can be found in the Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board Multi-Agency Policy and Procedures which can be downloaded from: [www.rbsab.org](http://www.rbsab.org)

You can use this space to record relevant contact details:

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## Other Information

This is one of a series of factsheets produced by the RBSAB. The factsheets available are:

**Factsheet 1:** What happens when abuse is reported – Information for adults who may be being abused or neglected

**Factsheet 2:** Safeguarding Adults – Information for family and friends

**Factsheet 3:** The stages of the Safeguarding process?

**Factsheet 4:** What is a Section 42 Safeguarding Enquiry?

**Factsheet 5:** What is a Section 42 Strategy Meeting?

**Factsheet 6:** Safeguarding Adult Reviews – Information for families and carers

**Factsheet 7:** Information for a person alleged to have caused harm

**Factsheet 8:** What happens after you report a safeguarding adults concern?  
Understanding the Safeguarding Process

All the factsheets are available at  
[www.rochdalesafeguarding.com](http://www.rochdalesafeguarding.com)

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**Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adults Board**  
**is committed to Safeguarding Adults**  
**and will continue to establish a society**  
**where there is zero tolerance to adult abuse.**