AN INSPECTION OF

ADULT SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS IN NORTHERN IRELAND'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Criminal Justice Inspection Northern Ireland

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DEFINITIONS FOR ADULT SAFEGUARDING

Life circumstances

may include but are not limited to isolation; socio-economic factors and environmental living conditions.

Personal characteristics

may include but are not limited to age; disability; special educational needs; illness; mental or physical frailty or impairment and/or disturbance in the functioning of the brain.



AN ADULT AT RISK OF HARM

an adult at risk of harm who is aged 18 or older whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased through:

- Personal characteristics and/or life circumstances.

AN ADULT IN NEED OF PROTECTION

an adult in need of protection who is aged 18 or older whose exposure to harm through abuse, exploitation or neglect may be increased through:

- Personal characteristics and/or life circumstances;
- is unable to protect their own wellbeing, property, assets, rights or other interests; and
- where the action/inaction of another person or persons is causing or is likely to cause them to be harmed.

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WHY IS ADULT SAFEGUARDING IMPORTANT?

Prevents harm from abuse, exploitation and neglect.



Protects adults where harm has occurred or is suspected.

It should be recognised as a core element of public protection and access to justice.

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WHAT ARE NORTHERN IRELAND'S ADULT SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS?

ADULT SAFEGUARDING:
Prevention and Protection in Partnership

Their role is to protect against harm when a crime is suspected or alleged anywhere in Northern Ireland.

POLICE SERVICE NORTHERN IRELAND

HSC Health and Social Care

Five Trusts covering Northern Ireland

Their role is to protect against harm.

Regional policy

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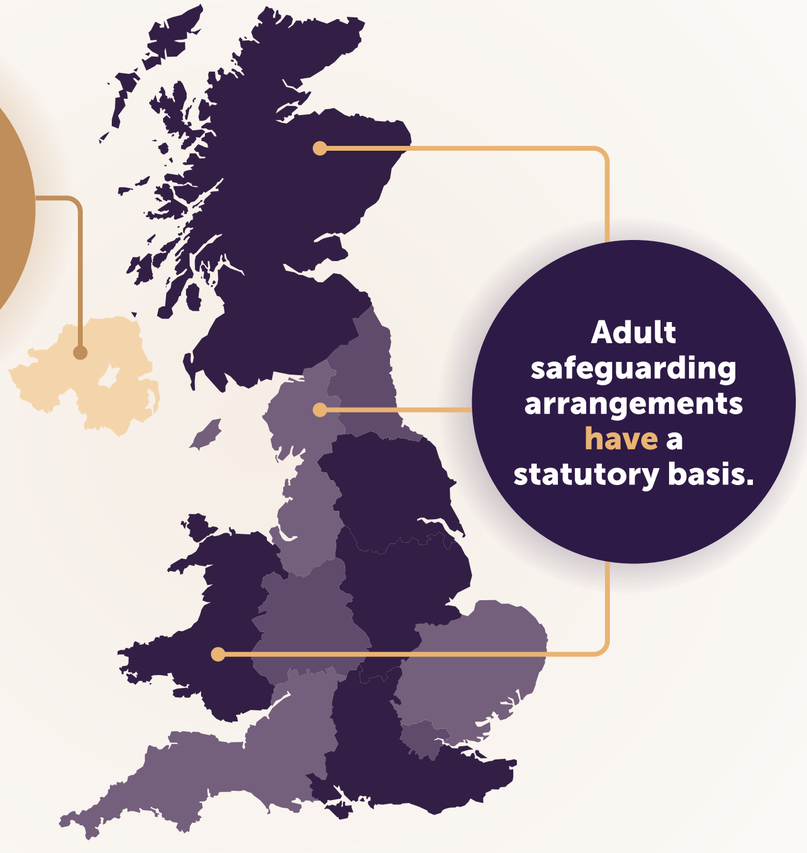
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ADULT SAFEGUARDING LEGAL STATUS ACROSS THE UK

Currently adult safeguarding arrangements in Northern Ireland are not on a statutory basis. This is different to the current position in the rest of the United Kingdom.

This will change when the Adult Protection Bill becomes law in Northern Ireland.





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Limited information about crime outcomes, prosecution decisions and Court outcomes make it difficult to understand the barriers to criminal justice outcomes.

Dedicated staff and examples of good partnership working and proactive support to help adults at risk of harm or in need of protection were found.

Adult safeguarding arrangements were operating during a period of uncertainty with organisations waiting for the Adult Protection Bill to become law.

CJI INSPECTION FINDINGS

Clear commitment among the inspected organisations to protecting adults at risk of harm.

Inconsistent approach to adult safeguarding practices.

Longstanding safeguarding gap within prisons, with staff unable to make direct referrals to Health and Social Care Trusts.

Awareness and understanding of adult safeguarding varied across organisations.

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6 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENT



4 STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

2 OPERATIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS