

## Adult Carers and Safeguarding Risk Assessment Tool

The majority of carers<sup>1</sup> strive to act in the best interests of the person they support but, there are times when those carers experience harm from the person to whom they are caring for or from the communities in which they live.

Risk of harm to the person with care needs may also arise because of a number of factors including carer stress, tiredness, lack of information, skills or support or a combination of these factors. This harm or neglect may be intentional or unintentional

Recognition of the risk of harm or harmful behaviours is critical to the prevention and protection of individuals. Risk of harm increases where the carer is isolated and not getting any practical and/or emotional support from their family, friends, professionals or paid care workers.

The following checklist has been developed to help front line practitioners identify informal carers who are or who may be at risk of harm, may be at risk of harming the person they care for, or both.

The checklist provides a structure to inform your judgement and act as prompts for further questions, analysis and risk management.

The shaded boxes indicate higher risk factor areas and should be considered carefully using professional judgement.

The scoring is intended to be a guide and is not a definitive assessment of risk, please pay particular attention to professional judgement in all cases.

**As with any risk assessment tool, professional judgement should always be used, and advice sought when required**

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<sup>1</sup> People providing care on an unpaid basis, usually to a family member, friend or neighbour who cannot manage without their help because of frailty, illness, disability, mental health problems or drug and/or alcohol problems

<b>Person potentially at risk is:</b>	<input type="text" value="Select from list"/>
<b>Name of person potentially at risk:</b>	<input type="text"/>
<b>Eclipse no:</b>	<input type="text"/>

<b>Risk factors and warning signs for carers who may be at risk of harm from the cared for person.</b>	<b>Check box if risk factor applies:</b>
The cared for person has health and/or social care needs that exceed the carers ability to meet them	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cared for person does not or is unable to consider the carers needs e.g. lacks mental capacity, is living with dementia	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cared for person treats the carer with a lack of respect or courtesy. This could be intentional or unintentional.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cared for person rejects help and support from others including family, friends, professionals, breaks etc	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cared for person refuses to be left alone during the day/night	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cared for person has control over financial resources, property and living arrangements	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cared for person engages in behaviours that are challenging abusive, aggressive, unusual, offensive or frightening	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cared for person has a history of drug/alcohol use or is a regular user of drugs and/or alcohol	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cared for person does not understand their actions and their impact on the carer	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cared for person is angry about their situation	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cared for person has sought help from services but did not meet the eligibility criteria for that (statutory) support	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer or cared for person is emotionally or socially isolated	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cared for person is a partner or close relative	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer lives with a person with dementia	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cared for person is being physically, sexually, emotionally, financially or psychologically abused by the carer. You must consider if this alone meets the criteria for a safeguarding adults referral and action under domestic abuse procedures	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>

Risk factors and warning signs for the cared for person who may be at risk of harm from the carer.	Check box if risk factor applies:
The carer is experiencing high levels of stress linked to the situation	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer has unmet/unrecognised health or care needs of their own e.g chronic ill health, mental ill health, drug and/or alcohol use	<input type="checkbox"/>
The cared for person is older and has no other support	<input type="checkbox"/>
The behaviours of the cared for person are challenging e.g. linked to conditions such as dementia, personality disorder or excess drug/alcohol use. The carer is at risk of reacting negatively to this	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer is unable to meet the necessary needs of the person they care for e.g. personal care, feeding, giving medication, mobility	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer has little insight or understanding of the cared for persons condition and associated needs. This includes an under or over estimation of need.	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer has had to unwillingly change their lifestyle due to their caring role e.g. reduce working hours, social time etc	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer is feeling emotionally and/or physically isolated e.g. no support from family, friends; stigmatised or undervalued	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer has additional responsibilities e.g. within the family, at work, a dual caring role	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer has little or no opportunity for time out of the caring environment e.g. personal or private space, a break from the caring role	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer has frequently asked for help, support or long term care without success e.g. not eligible for services, cared for refuses support	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer is being physically, sexually, emotionally, financially or psychologically abused by the cared for person. You must consider if this alone meets the criteria for a safeguarding adults referral and action under domestic abuse procedures	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer feels unappreciated, undervalued or exploited by the person they care for, relatives or services	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer has long standing relationship difficulties with the person they care for. This must be considered in the context of domestic abuse	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer knows/understands that their actions or inactions will have a negative impact on the person they are caring for e.g. Wilful neglect, inappropriate restraint, preventing access to other support	<input type="checkbox"/>
The carer has little or no communication with the person they are caring for either through incapacity, poor relationships or choice	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>

**Current risk status**

Following a review of the information contained within this risk assessment, please detail the overall risk identified.

<b>0</b>	No apparent risk – No history or warning signs indicative of risk. No further action
<b>1-5</b>	Low apparent risk – No current behaviour indicative of risk but persons history and/or warning signs indicate the possible presence of risk. Necessary level of screening/vigilance covered by support plans, i.e. no special risk prevention measures or plan required. Action within care management - recording and review Referral/signposting to carer support services
<b>6-10</b>	Significant risk – Cared for persons or carer’s history and condition indicate the presence of risk and this is considered to be a significant issue at present. A risk management plan should be/has been drawn up and implemented. Consideration should be given as to whether the circumstances fit the criteria for safeguarding adults. <a href="http://www.newcastlesafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-adults">www.newcastlesafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-adults</a>
<b>11+</b>	Serious risk – Persons or carer’s history and condition indicate the presence of serious risk. Highest priority should be given to risk prevention including the management of any immediate risk. It is likely that the concerns will meet the criteria for safeguarding adults and these should be followed. Consideration should be given to using the resources on the Safelives website <a href="#">Resources for identifying the risk victims face   Safelives</a>

<b>Person potentially at risk</b>	<b>Carer</b>	<b>Cared for person</b>
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**Summary of risks identified/Any other relevant information****What actions (if any) have been taken previously to reduce risk?**

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<b>Risk Management/Crisis Contingency Plan</b>	
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<b>Date completed:</b>		<b>Review date:</b>	
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<b>Actions to be taken (in the event of risk behaviour/relapse/failure to engage)</b>
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<b>Completed by:</b>	<b>Profession:</b>
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>