

## **Guidance - Police and Criminal Action**

This guidance assists practitioners to understand when it is appropriate to contact the police with an adult safeguarding concern and what the police's role and responsibilities are. This guidance should be read in conjunction with the document on preserving evidence.

### **1. Contacting the Police**

Agencies should consult with the police in order to ascertain if a criminal investigation is required if:

- Non-accidental injuries are apparent or suspected
- Sexual offences are believed to have taken place
- Financial abuse by theft or misappropriation of funds has taken place

They should also consider contacting the police if:

- The adult at risk wishes the matter to be referred to the police
- Any other incident where a crime may have been committed but the police reserve the right not to become involved in matters of a minor or less serious nature

Contact can be made via Oldham Public Protection Investigation Unit on Tel: 0161 856 8962 or [oldham.ppiu@gmp.pnn.police.uk](mailto:oldham.ppiu@gmp.pnn.police.uk)

In an emergency, the Police should be contacted by using the 999 system. The use of this system should be preserved for those most serious cases where the immediate attention of the Police is necessary. This should include circumstances where it is life threatening, a crime is in progress, an offender is still present or vital evidence will be lost.

For non-emergency circumstances use the 101 system. The wishes and best interests of the adult at risk of harm should be considered in making a decision.

If a person has been assessed to lack capacity under the Mental Capacity Act 2005 around the suspected abuse or criminal offence that is alleged, then consent should be considered in their best interest and the police contacted as a matter of protection.

It is likely that in most cases they will be referred to the police from adult social care, occasionally the reverse will apply and the police refer cases to social services departments if a criminal investigation is not required.

It is important to make a record of the log number and PIN (Police identification Number) when contacting the police. This will be used to trace the referral if follow up contact is required. If/when an incident number becomes available; this should also be recorded for reference.