

Terms of Reference for Vulnerable Adults

Vulnerable adults

The following should be read and used purely as examples of definitions of a vulnerable adult as used / considered by alternative agencies throughout the UK.

They should be considered only as a good guideline where Vulnerable Adults are referred to within the BWL policy and procedures for the protection of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults and are to be read as neither set in tablets of stone nor exhaustive definitions of a Vulnerable Adult, although most other definitions found are very similar in context.

What is the definition of a Vulnerable Adult?

A vulnerable adult is a person who is aged 18 years or older and:

- Is living in residential accommodation, such as a care home or a residential special school;
- Is living in sheltered housing;
- Is receiving domiciliary care in his or her own home;
- Is receiving any form of health care;
- Is detained in a prison, remand centre, young offender institution, secure training centre or attendance centre or under the powers of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999;
- Is in contact with probation services;
- Is receiving a welfare service of a description to be prescribed in regulations;
- Is receiving a service or participating in an activity which is specifically targeted at people with age-related needs, disabilities or prescribed physical or mental health conditions. (age-related needs includes needs associated with frailty, illness, disability or mental capacity);
- Is an expectant or nursing mothers living in residential care;
- Is receiving direct payments from a local authority/HSS body in lieu of social care services;
- Requires assistance in the conduct of his or her own affairs.