



# Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults at Risk

## **Self-Neglect Advice and Toolkit**

A document for those working  
with adults who self-neglect

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## **1. Introduction**

Multi-agency working is crucial when working with adults who are self-neglecting. Trying to understand the reasons behind the behaviour can help to determine the most effective approaches and who is best placed to engage and lead partnership support. Adopting multi-agency interventions and support that puts the individuals beliefs and wishes (wherever possible), at the heart of interventions is most likely to be successful and lead to long-term and positive behavioural change.

Whilst this document is primarily focused on safeguarding, it is recognised how difficult an issue this can be for practitioners who are not working within this context. Therefore information has been included within this document to provide signposting and support when the adult does not have care and support needs. It is hoped that this will help prevent cases escalating into crisis requiring safeguarding. Where safeguarding duties do apply social workers may also consider using some of these approaches.

## **2. Overview of self-neglect**

The Care Act Guidance 2014 recognises self-neglect as a category of abuse and neglect. This means that people who self-neglect may now be supported by safeguarding adult approaches, including Making Safeguarding Personal, as well as receiving additional support from practitioners.

Self-neglect covers a wide range of behaviours, including neglecting to care for an adults' personal hygiene; health or surroundings and hoarding. It isn't always easy to determine a root cause for neglect but it can be a result of: a person's brain injury, dementia or other mental disorder; obsessive compulsive disorder or hoarding disorder; physical illness which has an effect on abilities, energy levels, attention span, organisational skills or motivation; reduced motivation as a side effect of medication addictions or a traumatic life change.

## **3. Mental Capacity**

An assessment of an adult's mental capacity is important in terms of self-neglect and it is worth considering the 5 principles of the Mental Capacity Act:

- A presumption of mental capacity
- The right for adults to be properly supported to make decisions
- The right for them to make what might be seen as unwise (unsafe) decisions
- The need to act in the best interests of the adult
- To make the least-restrictive interventions to basic rights, autonomy and freedoms.

Whilst making an unwise decision cannot be used as evidence of lack of capacity, a series of unwise decisions should raise sufficient concern to justify an assessment of their mental capacity for certain decisions (e.g. capacity to refuse domiciliary support or capacity to understand risk from fire). The assessor must conclude, on balance of probabilities, whether any inability to understand or weigh up information is caused by an impairment of the mind. A conclusion that an adult has capacity to make relevant decisions does not mean that professionals do not still have a duty of care and should not be used for a justification for inaction.

Where the adult is unable to agree to have their needs met because they lack the mental capacity to make this decision, then the 'best interest' decision making process should be used if the care management process/care programme approach has not been able to mitigate the risk of 'serious self-neglect which could result in significant harm.'

## 4. Use of the advice and toolkit document

This document provides advice and a number of range of tools to assist practitioners when responding to concerns about self-neglect.

The Care Act states Safeguarding duties apply to those 'adults at risk' who:

- Have care and support needs (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- Are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- As a result of those needs are unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect.

The adult's care and support needs should arise from, or be related to a physical or mental impairment or illness, however, they do not need to meet the minimum eligibility criteria as set out in the [Care and Support Guidance](#), issued under the Care Act 2014. Regarding self-neglect you need to consider whether the adult:

- Is unable to obtain necessary care to meet their needs; and/or
- Is unable to make reasonable or informed decisions because of their state of mental health or because they have a learning disability or an acquired brain injury; and/or
- Is unable to protect themselves adequately against potential exploitation or abuse as a result of their care and support needs; and/or
- Has refused essential services without which their health and safety needs cannot be met but does not have the insight to recognise this.

If the issues cannot be resolved by the approaches in the following sections, there are a number of legal remedies that may also be considered. If the adult is not considered to be an adult at risk under the above definition, referrals can also be considered for the relevant complex person panels.

## 5. Advice and tips for those working with adults who are self-neglecting

### a) The Adult

You are unlikely to be able to build a trusting relationship and achieve a positive outcome unless you can gain an understanding of the adult's experience of self neglect from their point of view.

The following are suggestions to help you understand the adult's experience of self neglect:

- Recognise and discuss patterns in behaviour and be open about why people are concerned.
- If you identify concerns, talk to the adult about your concerns and seek their views as to reasons for their behaviour and what they feel would make things better for them eg. is the self neglect important to the person in some way?
- Listen to what is important to them and work at the adult's pace and be patient (remember that building trust will take time and can be intensive)
- Has there been a recent significant life event such as bereavement?
- What strengths does the person have – what is he or she managing well and how might this be built on? What motivation for change does the person have?
- Adopt a person-centred approach

- Don't be intrusive, directive or pushy
- Don't put your own values on others – what we deem as 'normal' isn't for everyone
- Go the extra mile, be reliable, compassionate and understanding
- Use plain English rather than professional jargon
- Consider if the person has mental capacity in relation to specific decisions about self-care and/or acceptance of care and support?
- Are there links between the self-neglect and health (including mental health) or disability?
- Are there care and support needs that are not being met?
- Consider how the person's life history, family or social relations are interconnected with the self-neglect?
- Does the self-neglect play an important role as a coping mechanism? If so, is there anything else in the person's life that might play this role instead?
- Are there any concerns for others in the property, i.e. other residents including children or animals?
- Who owns the property?
- Be a person, not an agency
- Agree small steps/goals - working to their priorities
- Recognise and reinforce small changes positively – help manage when no improvements
- Stay involved during a set-back or crisis

#### **i. Suggested ways of engagement**

The following engagement examples have proven to be successful, but as practitioners you will need to find the right one(s) for each case:

- Building a rapport, taking the time to get to know the person and refusing to be shocked
- Moving from rapport to relationship, avoiding knee-jerk responses to self-neglect, talking through with the person their interests, history and stories
- Finding the right tone, being honest while also being non-judgemental, expressing concern about self neglect, while separating the person from the behaviour
- Going at the adult's pace, moving slowly and not forcing things, showing concern and interest through continued involvement over time
- Agreeing a plan, making clear what is going to happen - planning might start by way of agreeing a weekly visit and developing from there
- Finding something that motivates the individual
- Linking to the person's interests (for example, if the person is hoarding because they hate waste, link them into recycling initiatives)
- Starting with practicalities, providing small practical help at the outset may help build trust
- Bartering and linking practical help to another element of agreement (for example, 'If I can replace your heater, would you go to see the doctor?'). Practitioners should, however, never withhold statutory services or support if the adult does not uphold their end of the bargain.

- Focusing on what can be agreed - finding something to be the basis of initial agreement, which can be built on later
- Being available and spending time to build up trust
- Straight talking - being honest about potential consequences
- If possible be with the person when clearing/cleaning happens – provide support and promote choice where possible

**ii. Consider your own reactions when you interact with a person who self-neglects, and the impact this could have.**

Did you realise that when you enter a hoarded or neglected home you will have a very strong reaction, but you won't know you are having it as it happens subconsciously? You need to understand this in advance to prepare yourself because the adult may see this reaction and this could damage your chances of building a positive working relationship.

When we enter any enclosed space we look for symmetry because symmetry is memorable. We need to remember the layout because if we feel threatened we need to know how to escape. In hoarded properties there often is no escape route and this can fuel your feelings of claustrophobia, discomfort or the desire to clear the property. This feeling can have a very negative effect on you and this effect might influence how you perceive the person you are working with; which will influence how you then work with that person. You may also have a strong physical reaction to strong smells that may be present.

If you know this normal reaction is going to happen you can prepare yourself for this and think of strategies to help overcome it. For example, try imagining the environment is not cluttered and focusing your sight upon the person's face. Noting your own feelings is helpful in reports and helps to build an understanding of the reactions of others that may have compounded a sense of isolation or helplessness about the individual's circumstances. The effect of strong smells can be reduced by carrying a strong counter acting smell e.g. using a cold remedy or having a mint.

**b. The Adult's Health**

It is worth noting that an adult's capacity to decide about their safety and welfare can be reduced temporarily by the risky behaviours or issues which may be features of their self-neglect for example lack of nutrition, hydration, sleep and social contact. It can also be due to depression; agoraphobia; low self-esteem and/or PTSD from trauma. Indications of self-neglect on a person's health may include:

- Pressure ulcers (please see the [Pressure Ulcer Protocol](#) for further information)
- Malnutrition or unexplained weight loss
- Accumulation of untaken medication
- Inappropriate or inadequate clothing
- Remaining in the same bed/chair for long periods of time
- Lack of food or out of date food in the fridge
- Appearing regularly intoxicated

### c) The Adult's Environment

Look at the adult's home environment. Is it warm, clean and safe? Signs of neglect or acts of omission may include:

- Poor environment – appears dirty or unhygienic overflowing bins etc
- Poor physical condition and/or poor personal hygiene
- Pets look neglected
- Change in living conditions
- Lack of heating, clothing or food
- Unexplained sudden inability to pay bills or maintain lifestyle

#### i. Consideration of a potential fire risk



It's easy to overlook the risk from fire until it's too late. Studies have shown that adults who self-neglect may be at an increased risk from fire. Please refer or contact anyone you have concerns about to [Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service](https://www.notts-fire.gov.uk).

**C**are and support needs  
**H**oarding and mental health issues  
**A**lcohol and medication  
**R**educed mobility  
**L**ives alone  
**I**nappropriate smoking  
**E**lderly – 65+

#### Recognise anyone?

If you know someone who displays one or more of these characteristics, get in touch, as statistics show they may be at more risk of fire. Visit [www.notts-fire.gov.uk/safe-and-well](https://www.notts-fire.gov.uk/safe-and-well) or call 0800 022 3235 today!

## ii. Hoarding

When working with individuals who hoard you might also wish to consider the Nottinghamshire Multi-Agency Hoarders Framework which can be accessed using the following link: [Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Multi-Agency Hoarders Framework](#).

When working with other practitioners to support an individual who hoards it may also be helpful to use the universal clutter rating below as a tool in describing the severity of the issue. Individual perceptions will differ to what constitutes a 'hoarder' so this is a really helpful way to ensure a coordinated and proportionate approach.

**Clutter Image Rating** – please select the photo below which most accurately reflects the amount of clutter in the house or individual rooms.



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9

Source: <https://hoardingdisordersuk.org/research-and-resources/clutter-image-ratings/>

## **d. The Adult's Support Networks**

Social isolation can be a contributory factor in self-neglect cases and support networks are important as a way of engaging with and enforcing positive behavioural change.

- Consult relatives and friends of the adult you are visiting. Lessons learned from previous reviews tell us that often relatives and friends harbour concerns but do not speak up, or do not know who to turn to in order to express their concerns
- Consider who is the best person to engage with the adult as it may not be someone from the statutory sector who is best placed
- Use local volunteers/contacts who may have things in common and be able to build a rapport e.g. school, work, community
- Explore and establish good communication with other agencies and services that can offer support including statutory and voluntary organisations; community; church and faith groups and neighbourhood watch
- Ask the adult about their family and friends; do they have regular visitors who would notice a deterioration in their well-being or the quality of care they are receiving? If they do, consider talking to the adult about sharing information with people in their informal support network, about how to raise concerns
- Use support plans including local befriending schemes or community activities to reduce loneliness or isolation and help the person to strengthen or build their social and support networks
- Consult on-line directories to provide information to adults who want to increase their social networks -

For residents in Nottingham City see [www.asklion.co.uk](http://www.asklion.co.uk)

For residents in Nottinghamshire County see [nottshelpyourself](http://nottshelpyourself).

## **i. Working together**

It is really important that consideration is given to adopting a multi-agency approach when working with adults who self-neglect. A useful way of doing this might be to arrange a multi-agency meeting to discuss the case with agreed actions and a time-frame for each agency involved.

It is also vital that all practitioners are clear on who the lead agency will be for each case. It's worth noting that whilst the lead agency will be a statutory agency, the worker/practitioner/volunteer/carer best placed to build a rapport and regularly engage, may differ from the lead agency, but will act with their support.

As a worker, if you have concerns about a case or are having difficulty engaging with other agencies working with the adult, you must speak to your manager and escalate your concerns.

## 6. Have you considered?

These prompts are not exhaustive but may be helpful in some situations in assisting practitioners to engage with and assess the adult's situation.

Elements affecting self-neglect	Comments
<p><b><u>Adult</u></b>            What are the adult's views about their situation and needs? Why do they think this is happening?</p>	
Does the adult have functional and cognitive abilities including mental capacity in relation to any potential risks identified?	
Does the adult have care and support needs?	
Does the adult have little or no choice over vital aspects of their life, environment or financial affairs?	
<p><b><u>Health</u></b>            What is their medical history? Have they engaged with professionals, treatments and interventions?</p>	
Have they any mental health conditions?	
Have they got substance misuse issues?	
<p><b><u>Environment</u></b>            What is their home situation like for them, any dependents and pets?</p>	
What are the views of neighbours, family, and professionals about their environment? Is environmental health monitoring in place?	
Is there evidence of hoarding; reduced mobility; inappropriate smoking and drinking making them, or others, a risk from fire? If yes consider a Fire and Rescue Service referral	
Highlight any concerns regarding the self-neglect and impacts on the health and well-being of the adults and others.	
<p><b><u>Social</u></b>            Do they have family, friends or other social support? What are the views of family, health and social care professionals and other people in the adult's network?</p>	
Does the adult have help or support with essential activities of daily living?	
Have they had or been offered domiciliary care, voluntary and other services? What would help and why has support been rejected?	

## 7. Tool to help assess areas of concern

If the adult has care and support needs you may wish to use this tool to help you decide whether to make a safeguarding adults referral. It can also be used to help you prioritise what areas to focus on; consider whether a multi-agency approach would be beneficial and what steps to take next.

Area of concern/Potential for harm	Low	Significant	Critical	Comments, including likelihood of harm to adult or others
<b><u>Adult</u></b> History of crisis incidents with life threatening consequences?				
History of safeguarding concerns /exploitation?				
Public order issues; anti-social behaviour/hate crime / petty crime?				
Financial hardship, tenancy/home security risk?				
<b><u>Health</u></b> Fluctuating mental capacity?				
Unpredictable / chronic health conditions?				
Substance misuse?				
Serious concerns for health and well-being that require an immediate response?				
<b><u>Environment</u></b> Is there a risk from fire due to hoarding; reduced mobility; inappropriate smoking and drinking?				
Environment presents risks and hazards that could result in injury to self, dependents or pets?				
Does their environment pose a risk to neighbours?				
<b><u>Social</u></b> Are they socially isolated?				
Not-engaging with agencies?				
Does the adult's network present high-risk factors?				
History of a chaotic lifestyle?				

Responses to self-neglect will depend on whether the adult has care and support needs, as you determine whether your concerns are sufficient to warrant a safeguarding adults referral.

**Remember you can always contact adult social care for advice.**

Tool 7 is there to help support your professional judgement and help you to prioritise your focus. For further details including referral pathways and guidance for making safeguarding referrals please see:

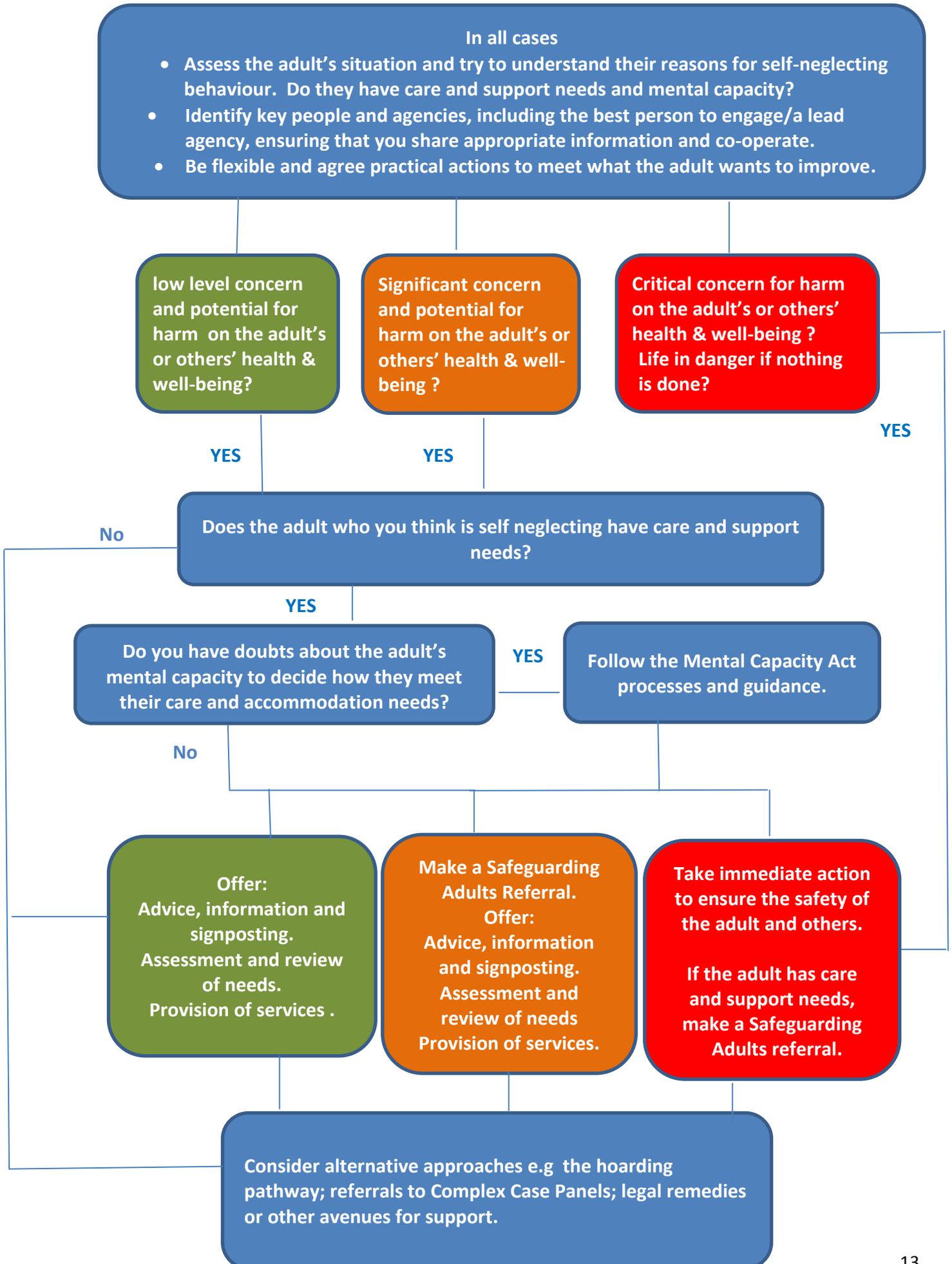
If you are working in Nottinghamshire County

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/media/115370/safeguardingadultsreferralpathway.pdf>

If you are working in Nottingham City

<http://psnc.org.uk/nottinghamshire-lpc/wp-content/uploads/sites/21/2014/09/Safeguarding-Guidance-Jan-2017.pdf>

## 8. Self-Neglect Flow Chart



## 9. Other approaches to consider when working with adults who self-neglect

It should be noted that using legal remedies may only be effective in resolving issues in the short term and should only be used at the correct juncture, having contacted the relevant agency who will seek legal advice where appropriate.

A summary of what is available and who to contact is below and further details and when the use of legislation may be appropriate can be found in Appendix 1.

Agency to contact	Legal Powers and other support	Contact details/further information
<b>Adult</b>		
Nottinghamshire County Council / Nottingham City Council (Adult Social Care and Health)	Safeguarding referrals under the Care Act 2014	Make a safeguarding referral to the relevant Local Authority (Depending on where the alleged abuse occurred): <b>Nottingham City Council:</b> Health and Care Point: 0300 131 03 00 <b>Nottinghamshire County Council (professionals only):</b> Completing the online form: <a href="http://www.safeguardingadultsnotts.org">www.safeguardingadultsnotts.org</a> Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): 0300 500 80 90
	Care Act 2014 (Section 9 Needs Assessment)	<b>Nottingham City Council:</b> Health and Care Point: 0300 131 03 00 <b>Nottinghamshire Customer Service Centre</b> 0300 500 80 80.
Mental Health Services (City and County)	Mental Health Act 1983 provides for a police officer to enter a private premises Mental Capacity Act 2005 - assessments and best interests decisions. Inherent jurisdiction of the High Court to intervene in extreme cases of self-neglect	<b>Nottingham City Council:</b> Health and Care Point: 0300 131 03 00  <b>Nottinghamshire County Council (professionals only):</b> Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH): 0300 500 80 90
Nottinghamshire Police	Police and criminal Evidence Act 1984 gives power to enter premises without a warrant Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 enables police to address self-neglectful	Nottinghamshire Police 101

	behaviour causing severe nuisance.	
Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS)	Undertake safe and well checks to help assess and mitigate fire risk and has powers of entry under certain circumstances	Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service 0115 9670880
<b><u>Health</u></b>		
Health professionals	Pressure ulcers	<a href="#">Pressure Ulcer Protocol</a>
<b><u>Environment</u></b>		
Environmental Health in Nottinghamshire District/Borough Councils or in Nottingham City Council	Public Health powers allow enforcement notices and power of entry for verminous and filthy dwellings; contamination and infectious diseases and prevention of damage by Pests	<b>Environmental Health Teams:</b> Ashfield District Council 01623 450000 Bassetlaw District Council 01909 533219 Broxtowe Borough Council 0115 9173438 Gedling Borough Council 0115 9013972 Mansfield District Council 01623 463189 Newark & Sherwood District Council 01623 650000 Nottingham City Council 0115 9152020 Rushcliffe Borough Council 0115 9819911
Housing Departments in Nottinghamshire District/Borough Councils or Nottingham City Council	Building Act 1984 provides the power to deal with defective premises. Housing Act - duty for local authorities to assess the hazards to health and safety arising from deficiencies in a dwelling.	<b>Housing Departments Teams:</b> Ashfield District Council 01623 450000 Bassetlaw District Council 0800 590 542 Broxtowe Borough Council 0115 917 7777 Gedling Borough Council 0115 901 3681 Mansfield District Council 01623 463500 Newark & Sherwood District Council 01623 650000 Nottingham City Council 0115 915 5555 Rushcliffe Borough Council 0115 981 99 11
<b><u>Social</u></b>		
District;Borough and Nottingham City Council	Can use Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Police Act 2014 powers to issue Community Protection Warning Notices for nuisance behavior. They have complex cases panels for	Community Safety Partnerships  Complex case panels operate via Community Safety Partnerships. In the County this can be found via <a href="https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nsab/news/complex-case-panels">https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/nsab/news/complex-case-panels</a>  Further information about referrals to Nottingham City complex case panels, including a flowchart and details

	adults with multiple needs who don't meet the eligibility criteria for formal intervention e.g. by Adult Social Care.	about using ECINS as a referral mechanism can be found by emailing <a href="mailto:CPP@nottinghamcity.gov.uk">CPP@nottinghamcity.gov.uk</a>
Animal Welfare agencies	Animal Welfare - Improvements to animal welfare, through education; support or enforcement in severe cases.	Adults have a duty to meet the welfare needs of their animals. Advice and education may be followed by formal warnings and prosecution. Cruelty to animals is a criminal offence See also: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animalwelfare-legislation-protecting-pets">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animalwelfare-legislation-protecting-pets</a>

## Appendix 1 - Details of legal remedies and when these may be applicable

It should be noted that using legal remedies may only be effective in resolving issues in the short term and it is suggested they are used as a last resort when other support has been unsuccessful or is deemed unsuitable, or to protect the adult or others at risk from imminent danger.

<b>Agency</b>	<b>Legal Power and action</b>	<b>Circumstances when this may be applicable</b>
Environmental Health in Nottinghamshire District/Borough Councils or in Nottingham City Council	Power of entry/ Warrant (s.287 Public Health Act 1936) Gain entry for examination/ execution of necessary work required under Public Health Act. Police attendance required for forced entry	Non-engagement of person. To gain entry for examination/execution of necessary work (All tenures including Leaseholders/ Freeholders).  In practice, this is used as a last resort, unless there is a risk to public health and or a statutory nuisance (Environmental Protection Act 1990). However, all steps need to be taken to try to gain entry into the premises and a warrant will only be sought after a number of attempts and/or risk is imminent.
Environmental Health in Nottinghamshire District/Borough Councils or Nottingham City Council	Enforcement Notice (s.83 PHA 1936) gives local authorities the power to serve notice on the owner or occupier specifying the works required to eradicate the vermin and the conditions conducive to infestation. The Notice requires the person served to comply. Failure to do so can lead to council clearing out a property which is filthy or verminous and recovering expenses that were reasonably incurred.	Where the premises are filthy or verminous and there is a public health risk to the occupier or neighbouring properties. (All tenure including Leaseholders/ Freeholders/Empty properties)  This process can be traumatic for the occupier and should only be considered in exceptional circumstances when all other informal and supportive efforts have been exhausted.
Environmental Health in Nottinghamshire District/Borough Councils or Nottingham City Council	Public Health Act 1936 S.84 Power to cleanse filthy or verminous articles within a dwelling. No provision to recover costs.	Typically used where a small number of filthy or verminous items are to be removed from one room of a property. Where a large number of items or several rooms are in filthy or verminous condition S.83 (Notice) is used instead (see above)
Environmental Health in Nottinghamshire District/Borough Councils or	The Public Health Act 1961 S34 gives a local authority power to remove accumulations	Where there is a public health risk to the occupier or neighbouring properties.

<p>Nottingham City Council</p>	<p>of rubbish on land in the open air. S36 makes provision for the Local Authority to serve notice requiring the vacation of verminous premises and adjoining premises for the purposes of fumigation to destroy vermin. Temporary accommodation free of charge must be provided.</p> <p>S37 Prohibits the sale of verminous articles and provides for household articles to be disinfested or destroyed at the owner's expense.</p>	<p>Where vermin is infesting neighbouring properties.</p> <p>To prevent infestation of vermin to other people.</p>
<p>Environmental Health in Nottinghamshire District/Borough Councils or Nottingham City Council</p>	<p>Under the Public Health (Control of Disease) Act 1984 as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2008, introduced new Health Protection Regulations covering: Notifications of certain types of infectious diseases</p> <p>Local authority powers that can be used to prevent, protect against, control or provide a health protection response to an incident or spread of infection or contamination that presents, or could present, significant harm to human health.</p> <p>A local authority can apply to a Justice of the Peace (JP) for a Part 2A Order if it considers it necessary to deal with a threat to human health from infection or contamination that presents, or could</p>	<p>Such health protection powers should be used where voluntary co-operation to avert a health risk cannot be secured and where other methods of control are ineffective, unsuitable or disproportionate to the risk involved</p> <p>If the JP is satisfied by the local authority's case, an order can be made under the 1984 Act</p>

	present, significant harm.	
Environmental Health in Nottinghamshire District/Borough Councils or Nottingham City Council	Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949 Section 4  If an owner or occupier fails to take steps to get rid of an infestation within the time specified by the local authority, the authority may itself undertake the work and recover the expense incurred.	The local authority has a duty to ensure that all land within its area is free from rats and mice. This is used where land is open to air, for example large amounts of rubbish in a garden which may attract pests.
Nottinghamshire Police	Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 and statutory guidance (Home Office 2014)	Powers exist to address self-neglectful behaviour that constitutes severe nuisance and annoyance to others.
Housing Departments in Nottinghamshire District/Borough Councils or Nottingham City Council	Building Act 1984, S76, provides the power to deal with defective premises where speed is important. S79 deals with ruinous and dilapidated buildings.	Provides the power to deal with defective, ruinous and dilapidated buildings., premises where speed is important.
Housing Departments in Nottinghamshire District/Borough Councils or Nottingham City Council	Housing Act 2004 and associated regulations establish the Housing Health and Safety Rating System (HHSRS) as the prescribed means whereby local authorities in England and Wales assess the seriousness of hazards to health and safety arising from deficiencies in the dwelling.	The operating guidance lists 29 potential hazards under four hazard profiles, including hazards which may be classified as either Category 1 or Category 2 Hazards. Action can take the form of an Improvement Notice, Prohibition Notice or Hazard Awareness Notice.
Nottinghamshire Police	Police and criminal Evidence Act 1984 – S17(1)(e) power to enter premises without a warrant	Gives power to enter premises without a warrant in order to save life and limb or prevent serious damage to property.
Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS)	Powers of Entry Article 27.(1) of the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005	If any issues encroach on common areas of a premises that NFRS believes comes under the Fire Safety Order, by virtue of the Order NFRS can act by inspecting the premises
Nottinghamshire County Council / Nottingham City	Care Act 2014 (Section 9 Needs Assessment)	Needs or carers assessments must be carried out where it appears to a local authority that they are necessary. The assessment should be

<p>Council (Adult Social Care and Health) (This is not an alternative approach but highlights the legal duties of the Care Act in relation to self-neglect)</p>	<p>Section 42 Adult Safeguarding Enquiry Self-neglect is included in definitions of abuse and neglect, thus linking self neglect to statutory safeguarding duties. N.B. The statutory guidance states “It should be noted that self-neglect may not prompt a section 42 enquiry. An assessment should be made on a case by case basis. A decision on whether a response is required under safeguarding will depend on the adult’s ability to protect themselves by controlling their own behaviour. There may come a point when they are no longer able to do this, without external support.”</p>	<p>appropriate, proportionate, person-centred and ensure a focus on the duty to promote wellbeing.</p> <p>Where the adult at risk of self-neglect lacks mental capacity and carrying out a needs assessment would be in the adult’s best interests, the local authority is required to do so. Where an adult at risk of self neglect has mental capacity but refuses a needs assessment, the local authority must undertake an assessment so far as possible and document this. It should continue to keep in contact with the adult and carry out an assessment if the adult changes their mind, and asks them to do so.</p> <p>Once an assessment has been made there is a duty on local authorities to produce care and support plans and to offer a personal budget. This should focus on keeping people directly involved. The Act also sets out a duty to review Care and Support plans to ensure that they continue to meet the needs of the person</p> <p>This section applies where a local authority has reasonable cause to suspect that an adult in its area</p> <p>a) Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs), and b) Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and (c) As a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it. The local authority must make (or cause to be made) whatever enquiries it thinks necessary to enable it to decide whether any action should be taken in the adult’s case and, if so, what and by whom.</p> <p>If the adult has substantial difficulty in participating in their enquiry and they have no one else to support them with this, then the Local Authority must provide them with an independent advocate</p>
<p>All</p>	<p>Human Rights Act 1998 Article 2 – the Right to Life:</p>	<p>The state must safeguard the lives of those in its care.</p>
	<p>Human Rights Act 1998 Article 5 – the Right to Liberty and Security No-</p>	<p>Other than in accordance with a procedure prescribed by law.</p>

	one should be deprived of their liberty	
	Human Rights Act 1998 Article 8 – the Right to Respect for Private and Family Life:	There shall be no interference by a public authority with exercise of this right unless it is for public safety, the protection of health, or the protection of rights and freedoms of others. Any interference must be balanced against other laws. CA 2014 guidance is clear that any concerns over self-neglect and the duty to promote well-being “do not override” the principle in S1 of the CA 2014 that “any restrictions on individual’s rights should be kept to the minimum necessary”.
Animal Welfare agencies	Animal Welfare Act 2006 Improvements to animal welfare, effected through education and support or enforcement in severe cases. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Escalation process</li> <li>• Verbal advice</li> <li>• Support and re-visits Encourage voluntary rehoming of animals</li> <li>• Provision of neutering vouchers to reduce overbreeding and hoarding issues and / or assistance with transport to vets</li> <li>• Issue of Improvement Notices Removal of animals if animal is suffering</li> <li>• Prosecution, in extreme cases (fine/ban on keeping animals / imprisonment)</li> </ul>	Cases of Animal mistreatment/ neglect. The Act makes it not only against the law to be cruel to an animal, but states that a person must ensure that the welfare needs of their animals are met. Individuals have a duty to meet the welfare needs of their animals.  Advice and education may be followed by formal warnings and prosecution. Cruelty to animals is a criminal offence See also: <a href="https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animalwelfare-legislation-protecting-pets">https://www.gov.uk/guidance/animalwelfare-legislation-protecting-pets</a>
Mental Health Services (City and County)	Mental Health Act 1983 Section 135(1) Provides for a police officer to enter a private premises, if need be by force, to search for and, if thought fit, remove a person to a place of safety if certain grounds	Evidence must be laid before a magistrate by an AMHP that there is reasonable cause to believe that a person is suffering from mental disorder, and is being <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ill-treated, or</li> <li>• Neglected, or</li> <li>• Being kept other than under proper control, or</li> </ul>

	<p>are met. The police officer must be accompanied by an Approved Mental Health Professional (AMHP) and a doctor. NB. Place of Safety is usually the mental health unit, but can be the Emergency Department of a general hospital, or anywhere willing to act as such.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If living alone is unable to care for self, and that the action is a proportionate response to the risks involved.</li> </ul>
<p>Mental Health Services (City and County)</p>	<p>Mental Capacity Act 2005 A decision can be made about what is in the best interests of a mentally incapacitated person by an appropriate decision-maker under the MCA. It is important to follow the principles of the Act, ensure any actions considered are taken in the persons' best interests and have given due consideration to the least restrictive options available.</p>	<p>Where a person - lacks capacity to make decisions and is at high risk of serious harm as a result.</p>
<p>Mental Health Services (City and County)</p>	<p>Inherent jurisdiction of the High Court The High Court has powers to intervene in extreme cases of self-neglect when adults have capacity, although the presumption is always to protect the individual's human rights. Legal advice should be sought before taking this option.</p>	<p>In extreme cases of self-neglect, where an adult with capacity is at risk of serious harm or death and refuses all offers of support or interventions or is unduly influenced by someone else, taking the case to the High Court for a decision could be considered.</p>