

Assessment of Level of Danger

ASSESSMENT OF LEVEL OF DANGER

		Severity of Impact			
Likelihood		No Impact	Low Impact (A)	Medium Impact (B)	High Impact (C)
	Unlikely	None 0	Low 2	Low 3	Medium 7
	Possible	Low 1	Low 2	Medium 6	High 9
	Likely	Low 1	Medium 4	High 8	High 10
	Certain	Low 1	Medium 5	High 8	High 10

In any potentially abusive situation, the level of harm the abuse has posed to an adult will be assessed and identified; good risk assessment supports proportionate intervention.

Risk assessment of **future** danger is integral to the Safeguarding process. This assessment of danger is built into each level of the adult safeguarding process.

The assessment of the danger will include balancing the protective factors (e.g. supportive relationships, insight, the ability to seek help and plan for the future) and those that could cause harm. This ensures the assessment of risk will become personalised to the individual. Consideration will need to be given to:

- The level of threat to independence.
- The impact of the alleged abuse or neglect on the physical, emotional and psychological wellbeing of the adult.
- The duration and frequency of the alleged abuse or neglect.
- The extent and degree of the alleged abuse or neglect.
- The level of personal support needed by the adult and whether that support is normally provided by the potential source of risk.
- The apparent extent of premeditation, threat or coercion.
- The context in which the alleged abuse or neglect takes place.
- Potential risks to other adults or children.

The initial judgement will be about the harm that is known to have occurred as a result of the alleged abuse or neglect.

Once the level of harm has been established, the likelihood of future harm (danger) must be considered and this will inform future action. The assessment of danger will guide decisions on interventions and the priority of the response.

The definitions in the tables below will be used at every stage in the process to establish the **current** level of danger posed to the individual.

A key principle and success measure of the Safeguarding process is to demonstrate that the danger to the adult/s has been reduced and that desired safety outcomes have been achieved.

LEVELS OF HARM – TO BE USED IN RELATION TO BOTH HARM THAT HAS OCCURRED AND HARM THAT IS ANTICIPATED

Level of Harm	Events or Circumstances
None	To be used when abuse is disproved, not substantiated or removed.
Low level of harm (A)	<p>Misuse or theft of small amounts of money or property</p> <p>Lack of care leads to discomfort or inconvenience but no significant injury</p> <p>Occasional harassment, taunts or verbal outbursts</p> <p>Isolated assaults that cause temporary marks, minor injury or no lasting distress</p>
Moderate level of harm (B)	<p>Injury causing lasting marks, temporary discomfort or incapacity or requiring a period of treatment or care</p> <p>Repeated assaults that cause distress and injury</p> <p>Misuse / misappropriation of benefits, properties and possessions leading to short or medium term difficulties in budgeting or income</p> <p>Continued neglect that has caused a limited period of distress and/or physical harm requiring clinical intervention</p> <p>People other than the alleged victim (e.g. children, relatives, other residents or service users) are disturbed or distressed by the abuse.</p>

	<p>Lack of some essential home amenities or lack of access to essential amenities which may be due to hoarding.</p> <p>Property in disrepair - unable and /or unamenable repair</p> <p>Home unclean and/or cluttered – (food waste, animal/human waste, infestation) which have a moderate impact on person’s health and well-being and with support could be managed</p> <p>Increased fire risk</p>
High level of harm (C)	<p>Serious physical harm, risk to life or permanent injury</p> <p>Rape or serious sexual assault</p> <p>Life threatening neglect or negligence</p> <p>Harassment and/or threats leading to lasting psychological harm</p> <p>Major financial loss leading to significant changes in lifestyle and autonomy</p> <p>Risk to life or lasting psychological harm to others.</p> <p>Little or no essential home amenities or hoarding prevents safe use of any amenities within the home</p> <p>Property in Dangerous Disrepair – significant risk to well-being of person and/or others</p> <p>Home cluttered and/or unclean – (food waste, animal/human waste, infestation). These are significantly impacting on person’s health and well-being – consider whether there is any impact on others in the property also</p> <p>Significant fire risk to property</p>