



June 2021

High Risk Behaviours Policy – Referral criteria

The Safeguarding Adults Team has seen a significant increase in numbers of referrals under the High Risk Behaviours Policy (HRBP) recently, the majority of which have not met the criteria.

In order to assist with decision making regarding making a referral, a flowchart is provided below. We would also recommend that professionals call the safeguarding team prior to completing the referral for a discussion about whether the case is appropriate for consideration (01452 425879 or safeguardingadultsservices@gloucestershire.gov.uk).

The name of the policy will be amended to “High Risk Behaviours Escalation Policy” to help to clarify when the policy should be used.

Below are some points to assist with clarifying the role of the HRBE policy:

- The policy is intended for use as an escalation in cases where other processes have been attempted first. The most common of these would be a safeguarding concern raised for consideration under section 42 of the Care Act.
 - If the safeguarding route is not appropriate, other means to manage the risks will need to be undertaken first, for example multi agency risk management meetings, which should be arranged by the lead agency involved.
 - There are other forums operating in Gloucestershire which should also be considered prior to any referral to HRB, for example the Blue Light Project (Gloucester/Cheltenham) for people with alcohol related issues, and the Complex Case cell, for people who have housing related issues.
- The person must have needs for care and support* under the Care Act 2014 (whether or not those needs are being met).
- The person must be deemed to have capacity and be refusing to engage with offers of support, meaning that they are at high risk of serious harm.

Case studies

- 1) 24 year old woman with significant health concerns: uncontrolled diabetes, pancreatic insufficiency leading to dangerously low BMI, homeless and refusing to engage with all offers of help. Risk of death. Safeguarding meetings held – still refusing to engage.

This case would meet the criteria under the HRB policy.

- 2) 74 year old man living in own home. Severe self-neglect, property in dangerous/unhygienic condition. Has a heart condition, hypertension and untreated leg ulcers which are infected. Assessed as having capacity to consent to medical treatment but has refused to allow health professionals in. Not engaging with social care offers of support. Now considered to be at high risk of serious harm/death.

This case may meet the criteria under the HRBE policy, provided that a section 42 enquiry had been undertaken and the risks had not reduced.

- 3) 62 year old male with alcohol misuse issues. Wife has restraining order against him due to alcohol/Domestic Abuse. Currently homeless and living in his vehicle. Willing to engage with Change Grow Live (CGL). Concerns that his health is deteriorating and he will be homeless while waiting for a detox/rehab placement.

This case would not meet the criteria under the HRB policy as he is willing to engage with CGL. This is primarily a housing need and should be addressed via that route. A referral should be made for a care needs assessment regarding concerns about his deteriorating health.

*An adult with Care and Support needs may be:

- an older person who is frail due to ill health, physical disability or cognitive impairment
- a person with a physical disability, a learning difficulty or a sensory impairment
- someone with mental health needs, including dementia or a personality disorder
- a person with a long-term health condition
- someone who misuses substances or alcohol to the extent that it affects their ability to manage day-to-day living.

High Risk Behaviours Escalation Policy Flowchart



