

Health Service Circular

Local Authority Circular

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Status: Action

sets out a specific action on the part of the recipient with a deadline where appropriate

'No Secrets':

Guidance on Developing Multi-Agency Policies and Procedures to Protect Vulnerable Adults from Abuse

For action by:

- Social Services Directors - England
- County Councils Chief Executive
- Metropolitan District Councils Chief Executive
- Shire Unitary Councils Chief Executive
- London Borough Councils Chief Executive
- Common Council of the City of London Chief Executive
- Council of the Isles of Scilly Chief Executive
- Health Authorities, (England) - Nursing Advisors
- Health Authorities, (England) - Directors of Primary Care
- Health Authorities, (England) - Directors of Public Health
- NHS Trusts - Chief Executives
- Chief Police Officers

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It is also available on the Department of Health web site at
<http://www.doh.gov.uk/coinh.htm>

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'No Secrets':

Summary

The Government wishes to improve the arrangements for dealing with incidents of adult abuse. In September 1999 the Department of Health issued a consultative draft copy of 'No Secrets' for comment. We now enclose copies of the final, published document.

This is the product of a multi-agency steering group led by the Department of Health, with the full co-operation of the Home Office, the Association of Chief Police Officers, the Association of Directors of Social Services, the NHS Confederation, the voluntary sector and academic bodies. The aim of 'No Secrets' is to ensure that key local agencies, particularly but not solely health, social services and the police, are able to work together to protect vulnerable adults from abuse, by developing local multi-agency policies and procedures.

Action

The co-ordinating role falls to social services departments and this circular is guidance under Section 7 of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970.

All agencies will need to collaborate closely on developing their local code of practice so that they can deal effectively with incidents of adult abuse. In doing so they should whenever possible endeavour to prevent abuse from occurring in the first place.

Directors of Social Services will be expected to ensure that the local multi-agency codes of practice are developed and implemented by 31st October 2001. The Social Services Inspectorate will be monitoring these arrangements. We must emphasise that neither improved protection nor a more coherent response to adult abuse can be achieved without close liaison between various agencies, particularly health, social services and the police.

This Circular has been issued by:



John Hutton
Minister of State
for Health



John Denham
Minister of State
for Health

Charles Clarke
Minister of State
for the Home Office