

## HARM DESCRIPTORS

### Example Harm Descriptors – to help to determine level of harm

	Abuse Type Safety	Physical	Psychological	Neglect	Sexual	Financial	Discriminatory	Organisational	Domestic Abuse	Self-neglect	Modern Slavery
NOT SAFEGUARDING	<p><b>“I am currently safe”</b></p> <p>There is <b>MINIMAL</b> harm to the person or others and there is no indication that the harm will re-occur.</p>	Minor injury with explanation that does not require a skilled medical response e.g. surface wound, bruising.	No psychological harm.	Single omission, not impacting on overall safety and wellbeing.	Single incident with no lasting emotional or physical harm.	Sum of money lost no lasting impact on wellbeing.	Single incident with no lasting emotional or physical harm.	Single incident concerning more than one individual, but not impacting on overall safety and wellbeing.	Isolated incident which does not amount to a pattern of coercive or controlling behaviour.	The person has unmet care and support needs or risky behaviours but these can be met via information and advice, signposting or assessment, care and support planning.	Not applicable – indicators of modern slavery are serious and will always require police intervention.
	<p><b>“I am currently quite safe”</b></p> <p>There is <b>LOW</b> harm to the person or others. There is some indication that low-level harm may re-occur.</p>	As minimal harm but with a risk of re-occurrence or emergence of a pattern which causes concern.	Intermittent psychological distress linked to individual incidents but not causing persistent impact on wellbeing.	As minimal harm but with a risk of re-occurrence or emergence of a pattern which causes concern.	As minimal harm but with a risk of re-occurrence or emergence of a pattern which causes concern.	As minimal harm but with a risk of re-occurrence or emergence of a pattern which causes concern.	As minimal harm but with a risk of re-occurrence or emergence of a pattern which causes concern.	As minimal harm but with a risk of re-occurrence or emergence of a pattern which causes concern.	As minimal harm but with a risk of re-occurrence or emergence of a pattern which causes concern.	Not applicable – indicators of coercive and controlling behaviour will always require safeguarding consideration.	Behaviours that result in risk to wellbeing, but this risk is not considered significant. The person may be accepting of limited support.
Possibly SAFEGUARDING	<p><b>“It is not currently certain whether I am safe”</b></p> <p>There is <b>MODERATE</b> harm to the person or others, either one-off or with some indication that harm may re-occur in future.</p>	Injury requiring a skilled medical response (possibly requiring an inpatient admission	Psychological wellbeing	Several omissions causing distress and having impact on overall	Emotional or physical harm requiring	Sum of money lost, impacting negatively	Emotional or physical harm requiring	Several incidents causing distress and having impact on overall safety	Coercive and/or controlling behaviour resulting in emotional or physical harm	Behaviours that result in significant risk to wellbeing and the person.	Slavery, human trafficking, forced labour or domestic servitude resulting in emotional or
	<p><b>“I am currently not very safe”</b></p> <p>There is <b>MODERATE</b> harm to the person or others. There are indications that harm is currently ongoing.</p>	to hospital) but where the person is expected to fully recover.	is persistently affected.	safety and wellbeing of the person.	medical/psychological treatment or support.	on wellbeing in the longer term.	medical/psychological treatment or support.	and wellbeing of multiple individuals.	requiring medical/psychological treatment or support (even if this is not sought).	They may be accepting of limited support.	physical harm requiring medical/psychological treatment or support.
	<p><b>“I am currently not safe at all”</b></p> <p>There is <b>SEVERE</b>, ongoing harm to the person or others (resulting from one-off or re-occurring severe incidents).</p>	Injury resulting in disability or ongoing significantly increased care and support needs.	Severe psychological trauma requiring ongoing support and/or treatment, possibly lifelong.	Ongoing and frequent neglect that is causing serious and imminent risk to safety and wellbeing.	Severe physical or emotional trauma requiring ongoing medical/psychological treatment resulting in disability or ongoing significantly increased care and support needs.	Major financial loss resulting in person not being able to meet their basic needs in the longer term.	Severe physical or emotional trauma requiring ongoing medical/psychological treatment or ongoing significantly increased care and support needs.	Persistent practices which result in significant and serious impact to the safety and wellbeing of multiple individuals.	Coercive or controlling behaviour resulting in severe physical or emotional trauma. The person requires ongoing medical/psychological treatment or ongoing significantly increased care and support needs.	Behaviours that result in serious and imminent risk to own safety and wellbeing and where the person has persistently refused support.	Slavery, human trafficking, forced labour or domestic servitude resulting in severe physical or emotional trauma. The person requires ongoing medical/psychological treatment or ongoing significantly increased care and support needs.