

INFORMATION SHEET



CBF Summary: Ethical Framework for Adult Social Care

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This framework has been produced for adult social care policy makers to accompany the [Coronavirus Action Plan](#). The framework outlines 8 ethical principles policy makers should be adhering to when making decisions in the current pandemic.

The eight ethical standards are:

1. **Respect-** Respecting personal choices, and giving people the opportunity to express their views; ensuring best interests are respected under the Mental Capacity Act; and striving to get people the support they are entitled to with clear justification if prioritisation takes place.
2. **Reasonableness-** This includes considering alternative options and ways of thinking, and to allow for contributions to be considered seriously in the decision-making process
3. **Minimising Harm-** including physical, psychological, social and economic harm that the outbreak might cause. This includes enabling care workers and volunteers to make informed decisions which support vulnerable people.
4. **Inclusiveness-** Involving individuals and their family carers in all aspects of planning that affect them; using the appropriate communication method to include people in decisions about their life; and considering the disproportionate impacts of a decision on particular groups of people
5. **Accountability-** This will include acting on and delivering outcomes required in the responsibilities and duties they have to individuals, their families and carers, and staff. Appropriate records of why decisions have been made and justified must be kept.
6. **Flexibility-** Giving people as much time as possible to challenge decisions made that will affect them and reviewing organisational practices, standard approaches and contractual arrangement that may obstruct goals.
7. **Proportionality-** This is particularly important for the families of individuals with a learning disability and/or autism as the guidance stipulates under this principle Policy makers should: assist people with care and support needs to the extent possible; provide support for **those who have extra or new responsibilities to care for others; provide support for those who are asked to take increased risks** or face increased burdens, while attempting to minimise these as far as possible
8. **Community-** This stipulates the need for us all to work together to support one another during this time and to support networks and communities to strengthen their response and meet needs that arise

DHSC suggest eight principles that can be used as a checklist, but these are not exhaustive and that 'In all instances, respect and reasonableness should be used as the fundamental, underpinning principles which guide planning and support judgements'.

The full guidance is available [here](#). We have also produced a series of Legal FAQs which you may find helpful. All FAQs are available on our [Covid-19 Information and Resources page](#).

We aim to update summaries in line with guidance which is changing regularly, this summary was last updated on 21st May 2020.