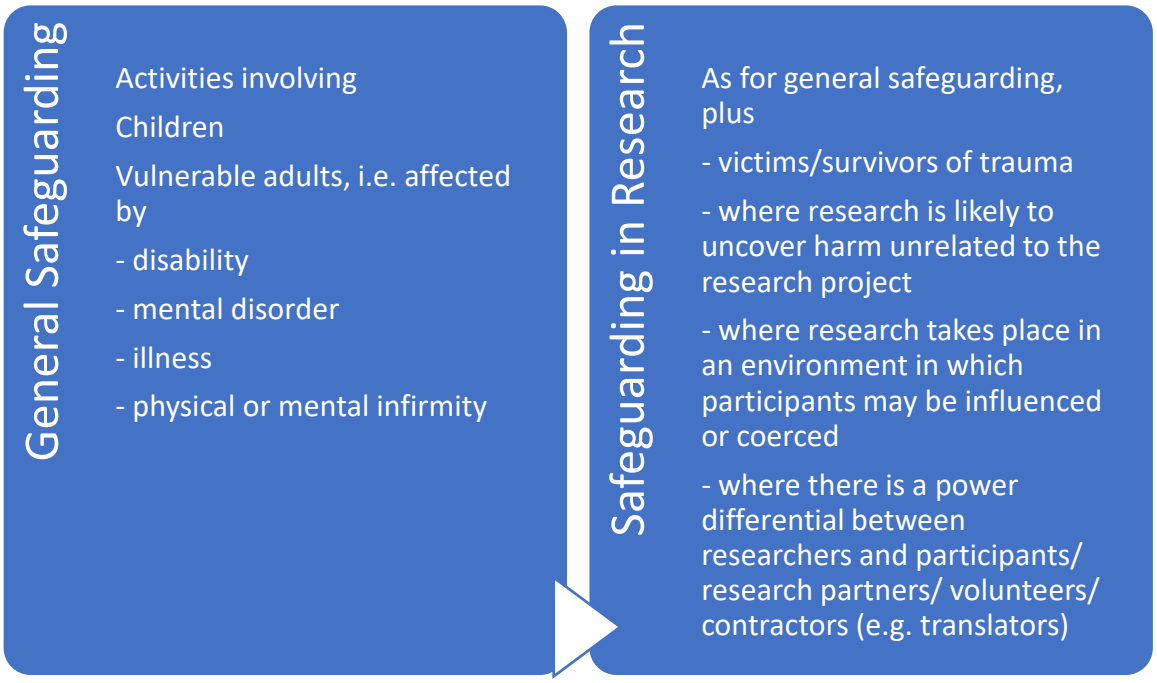
Safeguarding – Overview

When do Safeguarding provisions apply in research contexts?



To whom does our duty of care in terms of safeguarding extend?

To all those involved in the research in some capacity: participants, research partners, collaborators, volunteers, contractors and the research team

What does that mean in terms of planning research?

Anticipating safeguarding issues: being mindful of the context in which research is conducted.

Does the research focus on victims/survivors of trauma?

Could participants be coerced into participating or influenced in their responses (for example working among prison populations)?

Could interaction with participants or collaborators reveal past or ongoing harm or trauma (for example working with adults who are care experienced)?

Could participants, collaborators, co-investigators etc be distressed by descriptions/accounts of past or ongoing harm or trauma?

What do I need to do?

For projects where safeguarding issues are anticipated:

Plan ahead; have a clear line of communication/escalation in respect any allegations; complete a safeguarding plan; ensure all those involved in the research are aware of the lines of communication/escalation; provide appropriate briefing/debriefing to all involved in the research ahead of and after the research takes place

For projects where safeguarding issues arise unexpectedly:

Seek advice from the nominated safeguarding in research contact within your School

Further information:

Code of Practice - Safeguarding in Research and Innovation

International Development Research Funders Statement on Safeguarding | UKCDR

UKCDR: Guidance on Safeguarding in International Development Research | UKCDR