If you have enough reasonable cause to suspect (b) but you are still unsure about (a) raise an adult safeguarding concern. The Local Authority information gathering responses, under s42(1) will help to make a decision

Are you concerned that an adult is at risk of, or is experiencing abuse or neglect?

Does the adult know you are concerned? \*

Are there any immediate actions needed to safeguard the person?

Have you had a conversation with the adult and sought their views and wishes?

Does the adult consent to a safeguarding concern being referred to the Local Authority?

Does the adult understand what is going to happen next?

a) Does the adult have needs for care and support\*\* (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs) and

b) Is the adult experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect?

Section 42(1) (a) & (b) Care Act 2014

YES

NO

UNSURE

If you have reasonable cause to suspect that the adult meets the criteria (a) and (b) have you discussed with the adult about raising a safeguarding concern? Does the adult wish to raise their own concerns? Do they need support to do this?

Who else can you talk to within your organisation? Can you seek advice from others outside of your organisation or consider seeking advice from the Local Authority? If the outcomes of these discussions give you reasonable cause to suspect s(42(1) (a) & (b) – raise a safeguarding concern to the Local Authority / MASH.

If the concerns are not (a) and (b) what further support, advice, information or signposting can you offer the adult?

YES

Raise a safeguarding concern

Does the adult want a safeguarding concern to be raised?

NO

HOWEVER raising a safeguarding concern may be justified e.g. where there is a vital risk to the person or others, where there is a public interest consideration or issue where a Best Interest decision needs to be made (where the adult lacks capacity to make the decision). Then proceed with raising a safeguarding concern. Record rationale for decision making.

YES

Raise a safeguarding concern

**Deciding if you need to raise a safeguarding concern to the Local Authority**

**(ADASS Guidance 2020)**