



TEF Vulnerability & Wellbeing Toolkit

Vulnerability Assessment Framework (VAF) incl Adults at Risk and Quick Guide

TEF definition for vulnerability:

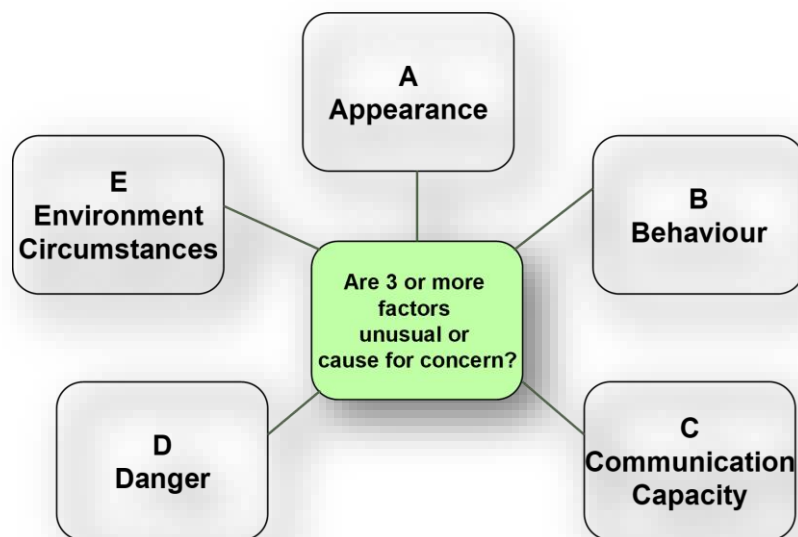
Vulnerability may result from an environmental or an individual's circumstance or a person's behaviour indicating that there may be a risk to that person or another.

Those who come to the notice of the TEF as vulnerable will require an appropriate response. This may include a multi-agency intervention, if required especially if this is a repeat victim. Additionally one's vulnerability may be linked to their current mental health, or their disability, age or a physical illness.

Carry out the Vulnerability Assessment using the TEF Tool Kit:

When coming in contact with new & current service users- from mentally ill, victims of abuse domestic or sexual - all staff personnel must carry out an assessment to identify any vulnerability. The use of any early intervention of the person at the earliest stage possible will maximise the support we can offer.

TEF Vulnerability Assessment Framework:



TEF Service User Appearance

- Is there something about their appearance that is unusual or gives rise for concern? Do they look ill, injured, unsettled, anxious?
- What can be observed immediately about the person in distress?
- What is the demeanour of the person?
- Is there a physical problem e.g. bleeding, panic attack?

TEF Service User Behaviour:

- Is there something about their behaviour that is unusual or gives rise for concern? Are they excitable, irrational, manic, slow, furtive?
- What are they doing and is it in keeping with the situation?

TEF Service User Communication/ Capacity:

- Is there something about the way that they communicate that is unusual or gives rise for concern? Is their speech slurred, slow, fast? Are their eyes glazed, staring, dilated/ What is their body language and are they displaying any subtle signs of stress or fear? Do they understand your questions?

TEF Service User Danger Alert:

- Is there a risk of danger / harm to themselves or another?

TEF Environment/ Circumstances

- Is there something about the environment that is unusual or gives rise for concern? What is the time of day? Where do they live? Can they get home? Has the incident that they are involved in significantly affected their circumstances?
- What are the circumstances? Are they unusual or out of the ordinary. Does anything give rise to concern? (This could include a Thought or intuition). Has there been a significant change in the person's circumstances?

Points worth considering when dealing with Vulnerable service users:

- Has the subject been identified as being vulnerable using the TEF vulnerable persons policy?
- Is this person an Adult at Risk as defined by the Care Act 2014 definition (care and support needs)? - see Identification of Adults at Risk Q&As
- Are there concerns regarding their mental health or subject to current Mental Health legislation?

Identify whether:

- **Care Act** - If you have concerns that an adult at risk has been or may be subject to abuse or harm complete document & report immediately - If a crime or a crime related incident, recorded in our own records Notes, flagged to adult safeguarding team & Police immediately. Carer Abuse and/or Vulnerable adult targeted because of vulnerabilities. Consider if the incident might be a disability hate crime if so, flag this to tef management for investigation.
- Has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- As a result of those needs is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.



Mental Health & Wellbeing:

- Refer to adult safeguarding if you suspect abuse
- Complete a mental health assessment at referral stage
- Complete a TEF mental capacity form

Escalation of concerns:

If this is a critical incident, or serious abuse or death of an adult where neglect or abuse is suspected (including a death by suicide) notify:

- Escalate to management for assessment
- Senior Leadership Team if critical or emerging issues come to light, (Media)
- Report any evidence to Police, safeguarding teams immediately

Alex Eaton

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