



# 1 Minute Guide to Hoarding

## KEY CONTACTS

### Safeguarding Adult Boards

Southend: 01702 534706

Essex: 03330 131019

Thurrock: 01375 659713

This guidance is intended to help practitioners understand the issues of hoarding and details the path a practitioner should take to risk assess and safeguard the adult.

### To report a concern

Southend: 01702 215008

Essex: 0345 603 7630

Thurrock: 01375 511000

### Further Information

The Hoarding Guidance can be found on the ESAB website [www.essexsab.org.uk](http://www.essexsab.org.uk) [Guidance, Policies & Protocols Page](#)

### What can I do to help someone who is hoarding?

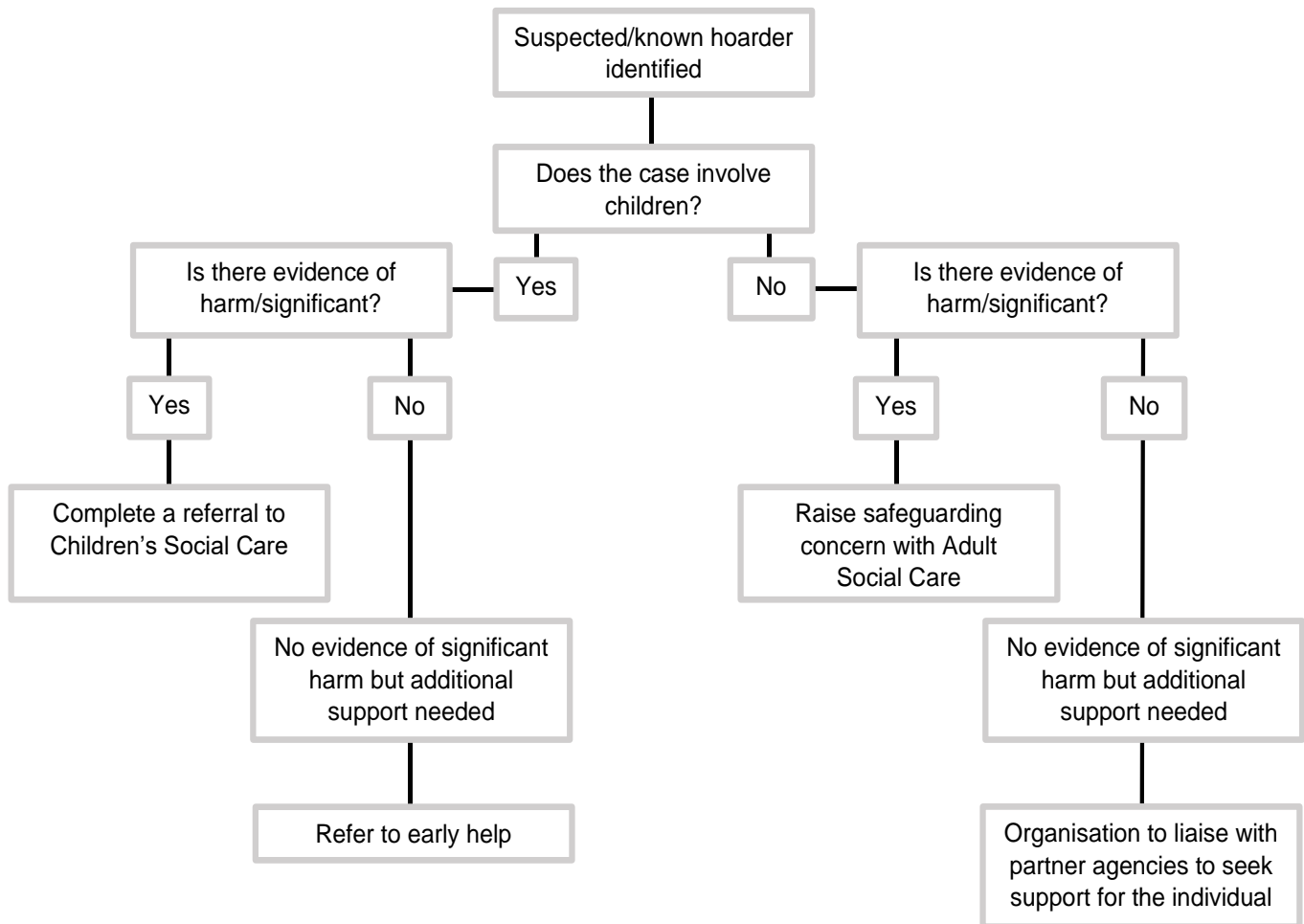
Hoarding disorder is distinct from the act of collecting and is also different from people whose property is generally cluttered or messy.



**The Care Act (2014) statutory guidance includes self-neglect as a type of abuse. It states; ‘this covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one’s personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding’.**

Hoarding is complex and requires a multi-agency response. Professionals working with an adult who has or appears to have hoarding disorder, should complete the Practitioners Hoarding Assessment and the Clutter Image Rating to inform decision making. Organisations should gather as much information as they can, prior to making any referral.

## Referral Process Flowchart



- Where the hoarding behaviour of the adult places a child at risk of harm then this information should be shared with the local Children's Social Care.
- Where the risk to the safety and wellbeing of an adult or others are becoming more critical, a SET SAF should be raised.
- Hoarding may pose a significant fire risk to both the people living in the hoarded property and those living nearby. Appropriate professional fire safety advice must be sought, and a fire safety visit requested.

### Other organisations that can offer support

- [Essex County Fire and Rescue](#) – For a free home fire safety visit
- [Hoarding UK](#) – For information and advice about hoarding