**Police station representative accreditation scheme**

**Part 3 Standards of performance**

**Unit 7 Advising and assisting a vulnerable client or a client with particular needs**

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| Assessment outcomes  The candidate will be able to: | Assessment criteria  The candidate can: | Knowledge, understanding and skills |
| 1. Identify a vulnerable client or a client with particular needs and ensure appropriate action is taken | 1. Identify a vulnerable client or a client with particular needs | * The solicitor or representative should have a practical knowledge and understanding of the provisions of the PACE 1984 and the Codes of Practice concerning:   + Juvenile suspects   + Suspects who are mentally disordered or mentally vulnerable   + Suspects who cannot speak or do not understand English   + Suspects who are blind, seriously visually impaired, deaf, or who are unable to speak, or who have difficult orally because of a speech impediment. * In particular, the solicitor or representative should know and understand the provisions regarding appropriate adults and interpreters. * The solicitor or representative should have a working knowledge of appropriate strategies for identifying vulnerability or particular needs where these are not obvious. |
| 1. Seek to ensure that the police take appropriate action in response to the identification of a vulnerability or particular need | Where a suspect is identified as being vulnerable or as having a particular need, the solicitor or representative should check that the police have taken the appropriate action, for example, have contacted an appropriate adult or an interpreter.  If the police have not taken the necessary action, the solicitor or representative should consider what action they should take, and act accordingly.  If an appropriate adult has been called in, the solicitor or representative should check whether they are suitable to act, by reference to Code C para 1.7 and Note for Guidance 1B and consider whether they should be present during the consultation with the client.  If an interpreter has been called in the solicitor or representative should seek to ensure that they are appropriately qualified and consider whether there should be a separate interpreter for the consultation with the client. |
| 1. Advise the client about the role of an appropriate adult or an interpreter (as relevant) | The solicitor or representative should advise the client about the role of the appropriate adult or interpreter, and about confidentiality. |
| 1. Work effectively with an appropriate adult or interpreter | 1. Seek to ensure that the appropriate adult or interpreter understands their role | The role of an appropriate adult in a police interview is not simply to act as an observer, but to:   * Advise the person being interviewed * Observe whether the interview is being conducted properly and fairly * Facilitate communication with the person being interviewed (Code C para 11.17).   The role of an interpreter is to assist communication between the suspect, the appropriate adult (if relevant), the police interviewer and the solicitor or representative. They should interpret accurately and impartially. |
| 1. Seek to ensure that the appropriate adult or interpreter understands the importance of keeping information confidential | Case-law provides that the presence of an appropriate adult or an interpreter in a lawyer/client consultation does not destroy legal professional privilege.  The solicitor or representative should seek to ensure that the appropriate adult or interpreter understands that they should keep information confidential and, if appropriate, seek an undertaking to this effect from them. |