

Keeping adults safe from abuse and neglect



The Care Act 2014 outlines that the safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs);
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and;
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

The term adults at risk of abuse and neglect means people who are in need of care and support services because of a disability, their age or an illness and who are - or may be - at risk of harm.

» What are abuse and neglect?

Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse and neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is being promoted.

There are many different types of abuse. It can include:

■ Physical abuse

such as hitting, burning, holding down or pushing around.

■ Sexual abuse

such as touching in a way they do not like, forcing someone to have sex, forcing someone to look at sexual pictures or videos or making someone do something sexual to someone that feels uncomfortable or wrong.

■ Financial or material abuse

such as taking someone's money or things or things without asking, spending a person's money in a way they are unhappy with or pressurising someone to change their will.

■ Modern Slavery

such as slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude.

■ Organisational

such as neglect and poor care within a care setting such as a hospital or care home or care provided in someone's own home.

■ Neglect and acts or omission

not taking good care of someone, for example refusing to help someone get food, keep warm and safe or see their doctor.

■ **Self Neglect**

such as neglecting to care for your own personal hygiene, health or surroundings including behaviour such as hoarding.

■ **Psychological abuse**

such as continuously threatening to hurt someone or leave them, keeping someone away from other people, locking someone in or making someone feel unworthy.

■ **Discriminatory abuse**

such as threatening someone badly or unfairly because of their age, disability, sexuality, gender, religion or the colour of their skin.

■ **Domestic Violence**

such as psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence.

» **Who might be an abuser?**

Anyone could be an abuser. This includes:

- Family members, partners, friends or neighbours
- Other service users (in hospital, care homes, day centres etc)
- Strangers
- Health or care workers
- Carers
- Volunteers

» **How do I know if someone is being abuse or neglected?**

Sometimes it is not easy to tell if someone is being abused but some of the signs may be:

- Multiple bruising or finger marks
- Injuries which the person cannot give good reason for
- Deterioration of health or loss of weight for no apparent reason
- Inappropriate or inadequate clothing
- Withdrawal or changes in behaviour
- Person unwilling to be alone with a particular carer
- Unexplained shortage of money

» Where might abuse happen?

Abuse can take place anywhere. Examples include:

- In your own home or a carer's home
- Care home, day centre or supported living accommodation
- Hospital
- Public place
- Work, college or university

» What to do

If you think that you or someone you know is being abused, you must tell someone about it. People you could tell include:

- The Integrated Single Point of Access team:



Telephone: 01429 523390



SMS Service: 07833 672 357



E-mail: iSPA@hartlepool.gov.uk

- The police
- A doctor, nurse or other health worker
- Someone you trust (for example your care worker or a warden)

» About this factsheet

This factsheet tells you about keeping adults from harm and abuse. We updated this factsheet in May 2022. We will check the information is up to date in May 2024.



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