

What is Safeguarding?

Everybody has the right to be safe no matter who they are or what their circumstances.

Safeguarding is about protecting:

- unborn babies, children, young people under the age of 18.
- vulnerable adults, i.e. those 18 years or older who may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is, or maybe, unable to take care of him or herself against significant harm or exploitation.

We are all responsible for the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults. We must ensure that we are doing all we can to protect the most vulnerable members of our society.

If you see something, say something...

In order to protect people from abuse and harm it is important that everyone knows what to do if they suspect someone is being abused.

You may suspect that someone is being harmed or abused because:

- You have general concerns about someone's wellbeing
- You see or hear about something which could cause abuse
- Someone tells you something has happened or is happening to them which could be abuse

Types of child abuse

There are 4 categories of child abuse:

Physical - This includes hitting, shaking, poisoning, burning or drowning, fabricated or induced illness,

Sexual Abuse - This includes forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities; for example, inappropriate touching, rape, buggery, exposure to indecent images, or encouraging sexualised behaviour,

Emotional Abuse - This includes persistent ill treatment of a child which affects their emotional development; for example, making a child feel worthless, unloved or inadequate,

Neglect - This includes persistent failure to meet the physical and/or psychological needs of a child; for example, failing to provide adequate food, warmth, shelter, clothing, emotional care or medical treatment. It also includes failing to provide adequate supervision and protection from physical danger which includes leaving a young child "home alone".

Types of adult abuse

Vulnerable adult definition – ‘A person who is 18 years and over who is or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and is or maybe unable to take care of him or herself, or able to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation’

Abuse – ‘abuse is a violation of an individual’s human and civil rights by any other person or person’s’

Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts. It may be physical, verbal or psychological, it may be an act of neglect or an omission to act, or it may happen when a vulnerable person is persuaded to enter into a financial or sexual transaction to which he or she has not consented, or cannot consent.

The following are forms of abuse experienced by adults:

Physical - Hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint, or inappropriate sanctions,

Sexual - Rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented, or could not consent, or was pressured into consenting,

Psychological - Emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks,

Financial or material - Theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits,

Neglect and acts of omission - Ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating,

Discriminatory - Racist, sexist, that based on a person’s disability, and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment,

Organisational (previously referred to as Institutional) - Failure to enable individual’s to maintain their personal identity by preventing them from making their own choices and restricting their opportunities. This could be restriction of freedom, activities or daily routine.

Domestic Abuse - includes psychological, physical, sexual emotional abuse and honour based violence

Self-Neglect - includes neglecting personal hygiene, health and environment concerns and behaviours such as hoarding

Modern slavery – encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and

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Contact numbers

- Children's social services for children under 18 (MASH – Multi-Agency safeguarding Team) can be contacted on 01709 336080 (available 24 hours).
- Adult social services (Assessment Direct) can be contacted on 01709 822330 between 8.30-5.30 after 5.30 contact 01709 336080