

One minute guide

Safeguarding Adults

April 2020

What Is Safeguarding

Safeguarding means protecting the health and wellbeing of adults at risk and enabling them to live safely, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and reduce both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect.

An adult is anyone over the age of 18. Abuse of adults who need care and support is where someone hurts, harms or causes them distress. Abuse is unacceptable; everyone has the right to be treated with dignity and respect and to live free of abuse or mistreatment, whether they live on their own, live with others, live in a care/nursing care home, attend a day centre or are in hospital.

What Is An Adult at Risk

Adults at risk could include:

Those with learning/physical disabilities, mental health needs including dementia, long-term illness/condition and those lacking the mental capacity to make decisions.

Older people who are frail due to ill health or disability

The adults may be seen as an easy target and may be less likely to identify abuse themselves or to report it. People with communication difficulties can be particularly at risk because they may not be able to alert others. Sometimes people may not even be aware that they are being abused and abusers may try to prevent access to the person they abuse.

What Does Adult Abuse Look Like?

Type of Abuse	What Does This Include?	Possible Indicators
Physical Abuse	Assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions	no acceptable explanation for injuries or inconsistency with the account of what happened, frequent injuries, unexplained falls
Domestic Violence & Abuse	Incidents or pattern of incidents of controlling or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between past/present intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. It also includes so called 'honour-based' violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage	physical injuries, isolation, constant criticism, controlling behaviour involving threats, fright, limited access to money and people outside of the home, low self-esteem, damage to property
Sexual Abuse	Rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography,	withdrawn, depressed, fearful, reluctant to be alone with a particular person, fear of

	subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.	receiving help with personal care, uncharacteristic use of explicit sexual language, self-harm, pregnancy in someone who is unable to consent to sexual intercourse, infections
Psychological Abuse	Humiliation, intimidation, threats of harm or abandonment, blaming, controlling, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or support	withdrawn, confused, aggressive, depressed, fearful, anxious, low self-esteem, distress, tearfulness, anger
Financial Abuse	Theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to financial arrangements, including wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits	unexplained lack of money, missing personal possessions, forcing someone to change a will, changes in the way money is handled, internet scams, doorstep scams, unusual difficulties with finances, rent arrears and eviction notices, failure to provide receipts for shopping or financial transactions
Modern Day Slavery	Human traffickers and slave masters coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment	working long hours for little or no money in places such as farms, nail salons, car washes and massage parlours, unkempt, malnourished, poor living conditions, hesitant to talk to strangers, moved from place to place, fear of law enforcement
Discriminatory Abuse	Denying basic rights, harassment, slurs, and abuse because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion	verbal or other abuse derogatory remarks prejudicial / unjust treatment, support being offered doesn't meet their needs
Organisational Abuse	Neglect and poor practice within an institution or specific care setting. It may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of policies and practice within an organisation	authoritarian management, over strict rules, left alone in room, lack of privacy, poor standards of care, having to go along with what everyone else is doing to meet the needs of the organization and not doing anything individual
Neglect & Acts of Omission	Ignoring medical, emotional or physical needs such as food and heating and failing to provide access to appropriate health care and support	weight loss, cold house, inappropriate clothing, no mobility aids, not enough food in the cupboards, untreated medical issues
Self-Neglect	Neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings so that it threatens their health and safety	not bothering to wash, eat or keep the home clean, hoarding, not caring and not letting anyone help

If you see/are told something or it doesn't seem right, report it to Adult Social Care:

Telephone 024 7683 3003

Email ascdirect@coventry.gov.uk

Out of office hours: Emergency Duty Team on 024 7683 2222

In an
emergency
always call
999

Key Contacts and Further Information

Coventry Safeguarding Children Partnership website - <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/lscb>

Coventry Safeguarding Adults Board website - <https://www.coventry.gov.uk/csab>