

# Safeguarding Adults

## Protecting People from Abuse and Neglect



### What is Safeguarding?

Adult safeguarding means protecting an adult at risk's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It applies to adults with care and support needs who may not be able to protect themselves. It means organisations working together with the adult to help prevent abuse or neglect happening. What happens in safeguarding should reflect the adults' wishes wherever possible.

### Who is at risk?

Adult safeguarding applies to adults 18 or over who are at risk of abuse or neglect and may not be able to protect themselves because of their care and support needs. An adult with a care and support needs may be:

- An older person;
- A person with a physical disability, a learning difficulty or a sensory impairment;
- Someone with mental health needs, including dementia or a personality disorder;
- A person with a long-term health condition;
- Someone who misuses substances or alcohol, or self neglects to the extent that it affects their ability to manage day-to-day living.

**Abuse and Neglect can take many forms. It can be:**

- **Physical** – including hitting, slapping, punching, kicking or the misuse of medication on someone
- **Sexual** – including rape or sexual assault acts, it may be non-contact such as teasing or being photographed
- **Psychological** – including threats, humiliating, controlling or intimidating someone
- **Financial** – including stealing or tricking the person out of money or material possessions like their house or jewellery
- **Domestic Abuse** – including controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage
- **Discrimination** – treating someone unfairly because of their disability, race, religious beliefs, sexuality
- **Neglect** is also a form of abuse – leaving someone without food or heating, refusing to take care of their personal needs, failing to provide access to appropriate health and social care
- **Self-neglect** – not caring for your own personal hygiene, health or surroundings
- **Organisational** – when paid staff in a care home, hospital or home care agency do not care for people properly or respect their rights and dignity
- **Modern slavery** – when people are forced into criminal activity or work for little or no pay

### Why does abuse happen?

It can be a single act or a repeated one. It can be done deliberately or sometimes it can be unintentional. Sometimes abuse happens because somebody does not know how to act correctly, they lack training, knowledge and understanding, or they haven't got appropriate help and support.

**We all have the right to live safely, free from abuse and neglect.**

## Where can abuse happen?

Most people will not deliberately harm others, but if abuse does take place, it could happen anywhere, e.g. someone's home, a hospital, care home, at work or in the street. It could be carried out by anyone, e.g. family member, friend, carer, paid member of staff or stranger.

## What should you do if you suspect someone is being abused?

Abuse can be hard to spot; some of the signs are very subtle. Some of the things that you can look out for are:

- a change in behaviour where someone is more withdrawn than usual, nervous, frightened or upset
- a change in appearance or poor physical condition ie someone looks unkempt or neglected
- injuries, bruises or marks that are unexplained
- someone has little money to buy food, clothing or pay bills when they should have enough.

**If you have concerns about an adult's welfare, or feel that they may be being abused or neglected, please call Warrington Adult Social Care (or if you believe a crime has been committed, Cheshire Police).**

**Warrington Adult  
Social Care First  
Response Team  
01925 443322  
Office hours: 8.30am  
– 5pm (Monday –  
Thursday)  
8.30am – 4.30pm  
(Friday)**

**Warrington Adult  
Social Care, Out of  
hours: 01925 444400  
5pm – 8.30am  
(Monday –Friday)  
24 hours weekends  
and bank holidays**

**Cheshire Police: 101  
(999 in an  
emergency)**

## What Happens Next?

- You will be listened to and your concerns taken seriously.
- The appropriate agencies will investigate the concerns.
- We will treat the person affected with dignity and respect.
- We will work together and with the person to find out what they want and to help protect them.
- We will pursue actions to prevent future abuse.

**Notice, Care, Tell**