

Safeguarding adults at risk

Safeguarding is about protecting people from abuse, preventing abuse from happening and making people aware of their rights.

Safeguarding includes six key concepts: empowerment, protection, prevention, proportionate responses, partnership and accountability.

Adult abuse can happen to anyone aged over 18. Some adults find it harder to get help and may be more at risk of harm, such as those with:

- A disability
- A mental health condition
- A temporary or long term illness or
- Frail older people.

Abuse is the violation of an individual's human or civil rights by another person or people and it can take many different forms, such as:

Physical abuse – Examples of physical abuse include: hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, illegal restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.

Sexual abuse – Examples of sexual abuse include - rape and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult at risk has not consented, or could not consent or was pressured into consenting. Sexual acts would include being made to watch sexual activity..

Psychological abuse – Examples of psychological/emotional abuse include - threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal from services or supportive networks.

Financial and material abuse – Financial and material abuse is a crime. It is the use of a person's property, assets, income, funds or any resources without their informed consent or authorisation. It includes: theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adults financial affairs or arrangements, such as wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, exploitation or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits and the misuse of an enduring power of attorney or a lasting power of attorney, or appointeeship.

Modern slavery – Modern slavery includes human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use the means they have at their disposal to coerce deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhuman treatment.

Discriminatory abuse – Examples of discriminatory abuse include - abuse based on a person's race, gender, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion; or other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment or hate crime/hate incident.

Neglect and acts of omission – Examples of neglect and acts of omission include - 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.

Organisational abuse – Whenever any form of abuse is caused by an organisation, it may be organisational abuse. Organisational abuse includes neglect and poor practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

Self-neglect – Self-neglect covers a wide range of behaviours, such as neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviours such as hoarding.

Domestic violence – Examples of domestic violence include psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; as well as so called 'honour' based violence, forced marriage and female genital mutilation.

Hate crime – is also abuse, it is when a person is targeted for abuse because of their race, religion, nationality, sexuality, age, gender or disability.

Abuse can happen anywhere and by anyone, including relatives, friends, neighbours, paid care workers, volunteers, professional staff and strangers.

Who can you report abuse to?

Police – for preventing and responding to crime, violence, abuse, threats and harassment

For emergencies: 999

For advice or non-emergencies dial 101

Textphone 18001 101

Bradford Council, Adult Protection Unit – If you think an adult is at risk of abuse or you are worried that someone might be abused raise your concern at www.bradford.gov.uk/makeanalert.

If you are unable to complete the online form call the Adult Protection Unit on **01274 431077**.

Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team – Telephone 01274 431010 (outside office hours)

For more information on Safeguarding Adults in Bradford please go on: www.bradford.gov.uk/apunit