

Information About Abuse



What is Abuse?

Abuse is when someone causes you harm or distress. It can take many forms, ranging from disrespect to causing someone physical or mental pain.

Neglect is where someone fails to provide, or deliberately withholds, access to adequate care and support that's needed by you, which harms you or puts you at risk.

Everyone has the right to feel safe and be treated with dignity and respect. Abuse is always unacceptable; no-one has the right to abuse you.

Sadly, abuse can be inflicted by anyone, including people close to us such as a family member, a friend, or a paid carer who we expect to trust. Often the people who commit abuse are taking advantage of a special relationship. Abuse can happen once or occur repeatedly over weeks, months, or even years. It can be accidental or deliberate and can occur anywhere; in someone's home, a care home, hospital, or a public place.

Sometimes abuse isn't intentional but happens because someone doesn't have the skills or support needed to care for someone. That doesn't make the impact of it any less, but it can help to understand how it happened. Even though there is no injury, this does not mean there is no abuse.

Who Abuses?

An abuser **could be anyone**. It can be someone you know or someone you work with. It could be staff who care for you, like the nurse or care assistant in your home. It could be your family or friends.

Most people will not abuse BUT anyone could abuse. It might be someone you know or a stranger. It can be anyone who uses their “power” over you.

Anyone can carry out abuse or neglect, including:

- A partner, spouse, child, or relative.
- A friend or neighbour.
- A health or social care worker.
- Staff in a residential or nursing home or hospital.
- A volunteer.
- Someone else you live with.
- A stranger.

A lot of attention is often given to targeted fraud or internet scams perpetrated by complete strangers, but it is far more likely that the person responsible for abuse is known to you and is in a position of trust and power.

Where Can Abuse Happen?

Abuse or neglect can happen anywhere and at any time, but the most common places are:

- In your own home.
- In a hospital.
- In a residential or nursing care home, where you may live permanently or for short periods.
- At a day centre or social club.

Types of Abuse

Abuse can be defined in many ways and there can be no exhaustive list. However, the [most recent guidance](#) from the Government identifies the following types of abuse:

Physical Abuse

Including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.

Domestic Abuse

Including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so-called 'honour' based violence.

Sexual Abuse

Including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo,

sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

Psychological Abuse

Including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.

Financial or Material Abuse

Including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions, or benefits.

Modern Slavery

Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

Discriminatory Abuse

Including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment; because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

Organisational Abuse

Including neglect and poor care 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.

Neglect and Acts of Omission

Including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.

Self-Neglect

This covers a wide range of behaviour; neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

Abuse and neglect should not happen to anyone at any time. But it does happen, often because people do not recognise that the situation they are in is not right.

Everyone has the right to live safely and in control of their day-to-day lives. If you think you are being abused or are at risk, talk to us as soon as possible.

Contact Us

Phone

Solihull Connect (Adult Social Care)
Monday to Friday; 9:00am to 5:00pm
0121 704 8007

Emergency Duty Team
Out of Office Hours
0121 605 6060

Police
101 or **999** in an emergency

Email

ccadults@solihull.gov.uk

Report Online

www.solihull.gov.uk/adult-social-care



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Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Council House
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www.safeguardingsolihull.org.uk

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