

Information about abuse?



What is abuse?

Abuse is when someone does or says something which harms you or makes you upset and scared.

Neglect is a 'passive' form of abuse. For example, if someone does not do something they should have done and it leads to you being harmed or put at risk.

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

Abuse can happen once or can be something that happens over weeks, months or years. It can be accidental or deliberate. Just because there is no injury it does not mean there is no abuse.

If people are worried that you may have been harmed or abused in any way, it is our job to look into this and make sure you are safe. This is called safeguarding.

Who abuses?

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 parent or guardian
- A health or social care worker
- Staff in a residential or nursing home or hospital
- A volunteer worker
- Someone else you live with
- A stranger

A lot of attention is often given to fraud or scams carried out by complete strangers, but it is 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 anytime, but the most common places are:

- In a person's own home
- In 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:

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.

Physical abuse - including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.

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.

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.

Organisational abuse - including neglect or poor care practice within an organisation or specific care setting, such as a hospital or care home. It can also be in relation to care provided in your 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.

Discriminatory abuse - including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

Self-neglect - this covers a wide range of behaviour such as neglecting to care for your personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

Domestic abuse - including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional, or so-called 'honour' based violence.

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.

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

Solihull Connect - **0121 704 8007**
(Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm)

Emergency Duty Team - **0121 605 6060**
(out-of-office hours)

Police - **101** or in an emergency - **999**

