

Safeguarding Factsheet 1: Adult abuse - summary

Who is an adult at risk of abuse?

An adult at risk is someone who is aged 18 or more who:

- Has needs for care and support
- Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, and as a result of their need for care and support is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it
- Is an older person who is frail due to ill health, physical disability or cognitive impairment
- Has a learning disability
- Has a physical disability and/or sensory impairment
- Has mental health needs including dementia or a personality disorder
- Has a long-term illness/condition
- Misuses substances or alcohol
- Is an unpaid carer such as a family member/friend who provides personal assistance and care to adults and is subject to abuse
- Lacks the mental capacity to make particular decisions and is in need of care and support

All adults aged 18 and over should be able to live their lives free from fear and harm.

People who abuse

Abuse can happen anywhere, at any time and be caused by anyone

- It might be:
- a partner or relative
- a friend or neighbour
- a paid or volunteer carer
- other service users
- someone in a position of trust
- a stranger

How to recognise abuse

Abuse can be:

- Something that happens once
- Something that happens repeatedly
- A deliberate act
- Something that was unintentional, perhaps due to a lack of understanding
- A crime

Abuse can take many forms. It might include:

Physical abuse such as being hit, kicked, being locked in a room or inappropriate restraint

Sexual abuse such as being made to take part in a sexual activity when the adult has not, or is not able to give their consent

Psychological abuse such as being shouted at, ridiculed or bullied, as well as being made to feel frightened

Financial or material abuse such as stealing someone's money or belongings, or misusing them for another's benefit

Neglect involves the failure to provide care or support which results in someone being harmed

Discriminatory abuse involves treatment or harassment based on age, gender, sexuality, disability, race or religious belief

Modern Slavery includes human trafficking, forced labour, and domestic servitude

Organisational abuse is when someone is treated badly by staff in a service

Self-neglect is where someone is no longer looking after themselves, such as not eating or washing properly, or hoarding and living in chaotic and filthy conditions

Domestic violence and abuse is when abuse occurs between partners or by a family member

Hate crime is any crime where the perpetrator's prejudice against any identifiable group of people is a factor in determining who is victimised. Hate crime is a form of discriminatory abuse

Mate crime is where people within communities, particularly people with learning disabilities, mental health issues or substance abuse issues, and older people are befriended with the intention of then being exploited

Sometimes when abuse takes place, it has not happened on purpose. It could happen because of poor training or a lack of understanding.

How to report concerns

If an adult is in danger, first, ensure the individual is safe. Call the emergency services if immediate help is needed.

If you are concerned that an adult at risk living in Kirklees is being abused you can telephone, visit or email:

Kirklees Council

Civic Centre 3, Market Street, Huddersfield, HD1 2TG

Walsh Building, Town Hall Way, Dewsbury, WF12 8EQ

Tel: **01484 414933** Open 24 hours a day

Email: gatewaytocare@kirklees.gov.uk

In an emergency, don't wait - call 999

Get medical help if they have been hurt

Call the police on 101 if you suspect a crime

Staff working in a setting where abuse is suspected should report concerns to their manager or nominated person within their organisation within the same working day. It does not matter if the allegation is in doubt or proves to be wrong.

Alternatively, staff can contact adult social care services (24 hours) 01484 414933

Do not worry that you might have got it wrong and that adult abuse is not taking place. It is more important that you report any concerns that you might have, as quickly as possible, so that adult social care services can take responsibility for deciding what needs to happen next.

What action will be taken?

A worker from adult social care services will arrange an investigation using the [Kirklees Joint Multi-agency Safeguarding policy and procedures](#) available on the Kirklees website.

- This investigation may involve other agencies such as health or the police.
- Action will be taken to ensure the adult at risk is protected both now and in the future.
- Where a criminal offence has been committed the police will be informed.