



Are you  
concerned  
about a  
vulnerable  
Adult?

If you are concerned about a vulnerable adult call:

Lancashire County Council Adult

On **0300 123 6720**

Emergency Duty Team (out of hours) 0300 123 6721.

If you don't feel confident about reporting the matter yourself  
ask someone you trust to report the matter for you.

In an emergency call **999**

## **What is adult safeguarding?**

Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live safely and free from abuse or neglect.

It is also about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop abuse and neglect.

## **Who needs to be safeguarded?**

People who need to be safeguarded:

- have care and support needs;
- are experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect; and
- are unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or experiencing, abuse or neglect because of their care and support needs.

Abuse can be:

- something that happens once, or on several different occasions
- something that is done deliberately
- something that is unintentional
- a crime

## **Where can abuse take place?**

Abuse can happen anywhere. For example:

- in someone's own home;
- in a public place;
- in hospital;
- in a care home or;
- in college.

It can take place when an adult lives alone, or with others.

## **Signs of abuse**

There are many signs of abuse including when someone:

- has an injury that is difficult to explain
- seems frightened around certain people
- seems unusually sad or withdrawn
- finds that money has gone missing
- hasn't been given food or fluids
- looks dirty or is not dressed properly

## Who abuses or neglect adults?

Abuse can be carried out by anyone. Although we often think of abusers as being strangers, it is more likely that the adult will know them and will be someone they trust. They may have some power or influence over the adult.

Anyone can be responsible for abuse or neglect, including:

- spouses / partners;
- other family members;
- neighbours;
- friends;
- acquaintances;
- local residents;
- people who deliberately exploit adults they perceive as vulnerable to abuse;
- paid staff or professionals and volunteers;
- strangers.

## What happens after abuse is reported?

- professionals listen to you
- professionals take your concerns seriously
- make enquiries about the concerns
- consider the wishes of the adult at risk
- offer the adult at risk an advocate if needed
- talk to the police if it is a criminal matter
- support the adult at risk to achieve the changes they want
- wherever possible
- develop a plan to help to keep the adult at risk safe in the future
- consider if anyone else is at risk

Adult Social Services work in partnership with a range of organisations and services including health, police, probation, housing and the voluntary sector, to safeguard adults from abuse and neglect.

***Abuse is always wrong - No one should have to live with abuse. In Lancashire, we have zero tolerance to all forms of abuse. We always respond promptly when we are made aware of suspected abuse. By reporting abuse, you can help bring it to an end.***

There are 10 different types of abuse:

**Physical abuse:** being hit, slapped or kicked, withholding food, misuse of medication, being locked in a room or restrained inappropriately.

**Domestic abuse:** when abuse occurs between partners or a family member (includes physical/psychological/sexual/financial/emotional abuse and coercive control).

**Sexual abuse:** someone being made to take part in sexual activity when they haven't given consent, or are not able to give consent.

**Psychological or emotional abuse:** enforced social isolation, removing mobility /communication aids, intimidation and harassment, use of threats and humiliation, bullying (including cyber) and verbal abuse.

**Financial or material abuse:** stealing, fraud, scamming, holding or misusing someone's money or possessions, misuse of benefits or direct payments.

**Modern slavery:** human trafficking, forced labour, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation and debt bondage.

**Discriminatory abuse:** unequal treatment or harassment because of someone's age, gender, disability, sexuality, gender reassignment, marriage/civil partnership, pregnancy/maternity, race or religious belief.

**Organisational or institutional abuse:** discouraging visits or the involvement of relatives/friends, run-down/overcrowded premises, lack of respect for dignity and privacy, not providing adequate food and drink, not offering choice or independence.

**Neglect and Acts of Omission:** not giving adequate food, shelter, clothing, stimulation, activities and medical care, preventing the person from making their own decisions.

**Self-neglect:** when someone chooses not to look after themselves properly such as not eating or drinking, refusing help and support for their health or care needs e.g. not taking medication or attending appointments. which has a significant effect on their wellbeing.