

Abuse

Abuse can happen anywhere and anyone could be responsible for abuse or neglect: a paid carer, a family member, a 'friend' or someone who is a stranger to the adult at risk.

Types of Abuse

The following list sets out the main types of abuse identified in the Care Act 2014, with some examples (please note that the examples are not exhaustive):

Physical abuse – assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions

Domestic violence – psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; and so called 'honour' based violence.

Sexual abuse – rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, 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 – 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 – 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 – forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment; because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation

Organisational abuse – 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.

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

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