

1 Background

Adult Abuse and neglect is a violation of a person's human and civil rights by any other person. It's where someone does something to another person that puts that person at risk of harm or it has a negative impact on their quality of life. Adult Abuse may be deliberate, or may be the result of ignorance or lack of training and can happen once or repeatedly. Further information and the SSAB's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Adults Procedures can be found at the [SSAB website](#)

2 Why it Matters

All adults have the right to live their lives free from abuse or harm. They should be able to choose how to live their lives independently, receive support in doing this and be treated with respect and dignity.

Related Legal Guidance & legislation:

Care Act 2014
Mental Health Act 1983 and 2007
Mental Capacity Act 2005
MCA - Deprivation of Liberty
Safeguards addendum 2007
Human Rights Act 1998

Guidance & procedures can be found at the [SSAB website](#)

3 Risks

Some adults may be at more risk of harm than others, including people who depend on others for care, because of age or illness, have mental ill health, have learning or physical disabilities, have sight or hearing impairment or loss, have dementia, or misuse drugs or alcohol.

4 Types of Abuse

Abuse can take different forms:

Physical: Hitting, smacking, pushing, shaking, or misuse of medication.

Sexual: Any sexual activity that is unwanted or not understood.

Emotional: Intimidation, threats, humiliation, isolation, verbal or psychological abuse

Neglect: Ignoring medical/physical care needs, withholding food, heating.

Discriminatory: Being treated differently because of ethnicity, sexuality, gender, age etc.

Financial: Theft of money, property or belongings.

Domestic: May include any of the above.

Organisational: Poor working practices in care homes or hospitals that cause poor or inadequate care.

What to do

Everyone has a responsibility to safeguard children, young people and adults who may be at risk of abuse.

If you are worried about someone:

In an emergency, please call: 999
If there is no immediate risk, call the police on: 101

Any concern about adult abuse and neglect can be referred to Sunderland City Council on 0191 5205552 or [raise a safeguarding concern](#) online (there are separate forms for members of the public and professional staff).

If you have concerns about the safety or welfare of a child or young person contact [Together for Children](#) on 0191 561 7007 (available 8.30am to 5:15pm Monday - Thursday, 8.30am to 4.45pm Friday)



6 Concern about a paid worker or volunteer?

If you have concern about a paid worker, professional or volunteer who is abusing an adult you must speak to the Safeguarding lead in the service they work in, or [raise a safeguarding concern](#). Further information is also available at the [SSAB website](#)

5 Information:

Anyone can be an abuser - a relative, friend or neighbour, a paid or volunteer carer, professional worker or another vulnerable person. Abuse can happen anywhere - in the person's own home, in a care home, in hospital or in a public place.

If you are in any doubt about reporting your concerns don't think "What if I'm wrong?" think "What if I'm right?" Guidance & procedures can be found at the [SSAB website](#)