

Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults



Care Academy
Training that matters

As a Social Care worker, you are responsible for safeguarding the vulnerable people you work with from abuse. This guidance will provide you with the key information you need to identify when abuse occurs and understand what your safeguarding responsibilities are.

Definition of Abuse:

A violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person(s) which results in physical harm.

A vulnerable adult is classed as an adult who has:

- Learning disabilities
- Mental health problems
- Dementia
- Support or care needs
- A chronic illness
- A physical or sensory disability
- Drug and Alcohol issues
- Social or emotional problems.



The 7 categories of abuse

1. Physical
2. Emotional/Psychological
3. Institutional
4. Financial
5. Sexual
6. Neglect by others
7. Self Neglect



Signs & Symptoms of Abuse

Physical – Bruising, burn marks, unexplained injuries.

Emotional/Psychological – Withdrawn, depressed, loss of confidence, withdrawal of choice, controlling care.

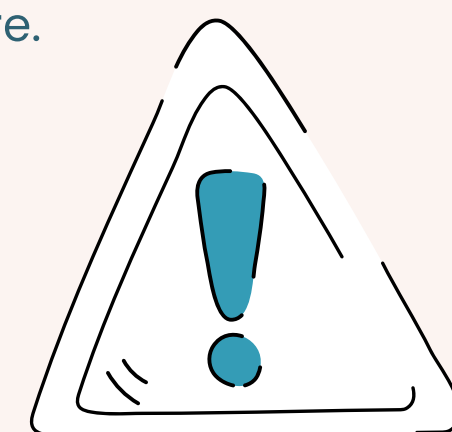
Institutional – Unsettlement, boredom, asking for time constantly.

Financial – Unpaid bills, no food or heating in house, valuables gone missing.

Sexual – Bleeding, unexplained and uncharacteristic changes in behaviour.

Neglect by Others – Untidy in appearance, lack of food, hungry all the time, soiled and wet clothing.

Self Neglect – Strong odour, dirty clothing, disinterest in eating or washing.



Abuse can happen anywhere including:

- At home
- A care home, hospital or day service
- At work or college
- A public place or in the community



An abuser can be anyone including:

- Professional staff e.g. nurse, doctor, solicitor
- Religious figures
- Paid or unpaid care workers
- Volunteers
- Strangers
- Family members
- Friends



Your safeguarding responsibilities

Do:

- Believe abuse can happen, never ignore a hunch
- Share concerns with appropriate person
- Ensure you know the policy and procedures
- Know your limits of responsibility
- Report and record your suspicions asap
- Inform victim of steps and what the process will be



Don't:

- Cover up for others
- Tackle the perpetrator yourself



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