

# Safeguarding Adults in Stockton-on-Tees

## Adult Safeguarding – What it is and why it matters

Safeguarding means protecting an adults rights to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risk and experience of abuse and neglect.

### What are abuse and neglect?

Abuse and neglect can take many forms and the circumstances of the individual case will always be considered. There are many different types and patterns of abuse and neglect and the different circumstances in which they may take place. The list below is not intended to be an exhaustive list but an illustrative guide as to the sort of behaviour which could give rise to a safeguarding concern.

- **Physical abuse:** including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, and misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.
- **Domestic abuse:** including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse, so called ‘honour ‘based violence.
- **Sexual abuse:** including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual pornography, subsection 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:** including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercing, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive network.
- **Financial and material abuse:** including theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adults 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:** including form of harassment, slurs or similar treatment; because of race, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, or religion.
- **Organisational abuse:** including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, or in relation to care provided in one’s own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment.

- **Neglect of acts of omission:** including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services, the withholding of necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.
- **Self-neglect:** this covers a wide range of behaviours. Neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

### Where does abuse or neglect happen?

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.

While a lot of attention is paid, for example to target fraud or internet scams perpetrated by complete strangers, it is far more likely that the person responsible for abuse is known to the adult and is in a position of trust and power.

Anyone can carry out abuse or neglect, including, spouses/partner, other family member, neighbours, friends, acquaintances, local residents, people who deliberately exploit adults they perceive as vulnerable to abuse, paid staff, professionals, volunteers and strangers.

### Signs of abuse and neglect

Incidents of abuse may be single incidents or multiple. Patterns of abuse vary and include:

- Serial abusing in which the perpetrator seeks out and grooms individuals. Sexual abuse sometimes falls into this pattern as do some forms of financial abuse.
- Long-term abuse in context of an ongoing family relationship such as domestic violence between spouses or generations or persistent psychological abuse.
- Opportunistic abuse such as theft occurring because money or jewellery has been left lying around.

There may be many signs of abuse but some of the common ones are;

- unexplained injuries
- unusual bruising
- weight loss
- fearfulness and anxiety
- lack of money, food or clothing or unexplained debt
- unusually disturbed behaviour
- inappropriately sexualised behaviour
- bullying
- lack of choice in how to live day to day life

**If you feel uncomfortable about something, contact us and discuss it. Feeling something is not right often means it isn't.**

### What should I do?

Adult protection procedures have been set up to safeguard adults against abuse and neglect. Any concern or allegation will be taken seriously.

#### **You can talk to:**

- Stockton Borough Council's First Contact Team Telephone: 01642 527764

#### **Or if you'd prefer:**

- The Police if you feel a crime have been committed
- Doctor, Nurse or other health worker particularly if in a health setting
- Someone you can trust (For example, your social worker, or a warden)
- The Care Quality Commission if a registered service provider is involved (e.g. home carer or Residential/ Nursing Home)

## Public Information Services

Our leaflets are designed to give basic information about our services to the adult population of Stockton-On-Tees. You can find all of our information leaflets on our website: [www.stockton.gov.uk/adultsocialcare](http://www.stockton.gov.uk/adultsocialcare)

If you would like this information in any other language or format for example **large print** or audio please contact 01642 527764.

إذا كنت ترغب الحصول على هذه المعلومات بلغات أو بأشكال أخرى على سبيل المثال بالطبعة الكبيرة أو بالشريط المسجل فالرجاء الإتصال 'بدايفرستي تيم'

على هاتف رقم 01642 527764

ARABIC

اگر شما این اطلاعات را به زبان یا شکل دیگری مثلا چاپ بزرگ یا بصورت صدا میخواهید لطفاً با تیم دایورسیتی (گونگونی)

با شماره 01642 527764 به تماس شوید

FARSI

Si vous souhaitez obtenir ces informations dans d'autres langues ou sous un autre format, par exemple, en gros caractères / version audio, veuillez contacter l'équipe au n° 01642 527764

FRENCH

نهگهر جهرت لئ به نهم زانباريه به دهستت بکهونت به زمانه کانی تر یان به شیوه به کی تر یو نمونه چاپی گه وره/یان به تئیی تو مارکراو نکایه به یوهندی بکه به 'تیمی دایفرستی'

له سهه زماره ی ته له فون 01642 527764

KURDISH

欲要這份資訊的其它語言版或其它版式例如大字體印刷/錄音帶，請致電 01642 527764 接洽 '多元化隊'

CHINESE

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਬਣਤਰ ਜਾਂ ਥੱਲੀ ਵਿੱਚ, ਵੱਡੀ ਛਪਾਈ ਵਿੱਚ ਜਾਂ ਟੈਪ/ਸੀ ਡੀ 'ਤੇ

ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ

ਹੁੰ 01642 527764 ਨੰਬਰ ਉੱਤੇ ਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

PUNJABI

اگر آپ ان معلومات کو کسی بھی اور زبان یا انداز، مثلاً بڑے پرنٹ/آڈیو ٹیپ وغیرہ میں حاصل کرنا چاہیں، تو ڈائریکٹ ٹیم

کو اس نمبر پر فون کیجئے 01642 527764

URDU