

Bradford Adult Social Care Factsheet

Protecting Adults at Risk from Abuse



Protecting Adults at Risk from Abuse

This leaflet explains what you can do if you are worried about the possible abuse of an adult at risk.

If you are worried that you or someone you know is at risk of harm or neglect, please call us in confidence on 01274 435400.

To request a carer's assessment or get more information you can call us at Information and Advice Hub on 01274 435400

Contact Independence Advice Hub - Online Form, use link:

https://onlineforms.bradford.gov.uk/ufs/contact_us_social_services.eb

Who are adults at risk?

Adults at risk are adults in need of care and support who may be at risk of abuse or neglect. This may be because they are older or have a mental health problem, a learning or physical disability.

What is abuse?

Abuse is where someone in a position of trust hurts, harms or causes distress to an adult at risk. Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated actions directly or indirectly and can happen anywhere. Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights and can be committed by one or more people. Abuse can be:

- Physical abuse – such as hitting, pushing, kicking, shaking, restraint.

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- Domestic violence – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse, 'honour' based violence.
- Sexual abuse – such as inappropriate touching, rape, sexual assault or sexual acts of any kind where the adult at risk has not consented, or could not consent, or which they were pressurised into consenting.
- Sexual exploitation - involves exploitative situations and relationships where people receive 'something' (e.g. accommodation, alcohol, affection, money) as a result of them taking part in sexual activities.
- Psychological abuse – including emotional abuse, being shouted at, ridiculed or bullied, as well as being made to feel frightened or pressured into decisions.
- Domestic violence – in a relationship or marriage your partner uses physical, sexual, mental or emotional aggression to try to get power or control over you or they are unable to control their temper and you feel scared. There is often a cycle of violence and the abuse gets worse over time. Domestic violence can occur in opposite or same sex relationships.
- Financial or material abuse – is theft, fraud, internet scamming, misusing or withholding someone's money or belongings. It also includes coercion in relation to someone's financial affairs or arrangements, including wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- Modern slavery – includes slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude.
- Discriminatory abuse – poor treatment or harassment based on age, gender, sexuality, disability, race or religious belief.

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- 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 someone's own home.
- Neglect and acts of omission – includes ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to health, care and support or educational services, the withholding essentials, such as sufficient nutrition and heating.
- Self-neglect – where someone shows a lack of care for themselves and or their environment, including hoarding, and refuses assistance or services. It can be longstanding or recent.

How do I know if someone is being abused?

There are a number of signs that might be evidence if someone may be experiencing abuse, neglect or mistreatment. You may have noticed changes that cause concern, for example:

- Behaviour – they may become withdrawn, depressed or tearful. They may also be angry or aggressive for little reason.
- Personal hygiene – they may not take as much care as normal with their appearance, such as not bathing, shaving or washing their hair.
- Lifestyle – they may stop going out, not have any money to access leisure services or buy food, not welcome visitors, not want to be left alone with certain people or lose their appetite.
- Injuries – they may have unexplained or frequent injuries.

If you are worried about someone who is showing any of the above signs tell someone.

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Adults at risk can be silent victims of abuse. People should not suffer in silence as help is available. Even if you're not sure that it is abuse, there are people who you can talk to about your concerns so that the person concerned can be protected and made safe.

Who can I talk to?

Abuse can happen anywhere and to anyone. If it happens to you, do not be ashamed, frightened or worried – it is not your fault. All abuse is wrong and if you are worried tell someone.

Contacting someone to talk about your worries does not mean that you are making a complaint or an allegation of abuse. You may not always need to give your name.

Contact us

For adult care services and to comment or complain:

Email: ASCcomplaints@bradford.gov.uk.

Or contact the Corporate Complaints team by telephone on 01274 436820

If you or someone you know is at risk of abuse or neglect:

If you have any concerns about any adult who you feel is experiencing abuse or neglect, please contact 01274 431077 to speak to a member of our team for advice and guidance. If you believe an adult or child is in immediate danger, you should contact the Police by dialling 999 for urgent assistance.

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Key Links

https://onlineforms.bradford.gov.uk/ufs/contact_us_social_services.eb

