

What should you do if you think someone is at risk of abuse or neglect?

**Tell** someone, you may be the only person who can stop it.

Do not hope that someone else might report it.

Do not promise the adult at risk that you will keep it to yourself, remember “no secrets”.

Make a note of what has happened, or of what you are worried about.

If you are at risk of abuse or want to report the possible abuse or neglect of someone else please call one of the numbers overleaf.

We all have a responsibility to make sure that adults at risk in our community are kept safe and that we know how to recognise and report abuse.

The message we need to get across to people who abuse others is that abuse will **not** be tolerated and they **will** be held accountable for their actions.

## Numbers to call:

To report abuse or neglect of an adult at risk, or to discuss your concerns, contact Knowsley's Multi-agency Safeguarding Adults Hub (MASH)

**0151 443 2600.**

Or you can complete the 'Raise a Concern' form on the home page of Knowsley Council's website.

### Police:

Call **999** if a crime is happening now or someone needs police help in an emergency

Call **101** if someone needs police help but it is not an emergency

Crimestoppers - call anonymously on **0800 555 111**

Crimestoppers is an independent charity helping to find criminals and solve crimes.



Safeguarding is everybody's business



Safeguarding adults at risk of abuse and neglect

**How can you help?**

**Remember - Tell someone, your concerns will be taken seriously, we will listen to you and support you.**

**All reports will be dealt with fairly and swiftly.**



Safeguarding is everybody's business

## Who may be at risk?

An **adult at risk** is a person aged 18 years or over who has needs for care and support - possibly because of a physical or learning disability, a mental health need, dependence on drugs or alcohol, or a chronic illness - and as a result of those needs is unable to protect himself/herself from abuse and neglect.

## Where might abuse happen?

Abuse can happen anywhere - in a person's home, at work, in a day service, in a care home, in hospital, in college or in a public place.

## Who abuses?

Anyone can carry out abuse or neglect - a paid care worker or other professional, a volunteer, a neighbour, friend or even a family member, in fact anyone who has contact with an adult at risk.

## What do we mean by adult abuse?

**If you think something is wrong, it probably is.**

Abuse and neglect can take many forms and can include:

- **physical** - such as shaking, hitting, pushing
- **sexual** - such as unwanted touching, rape, being forced to view sexual images, being subject to sexual innuendo or harassment
- **psychological or emotional** - such as humiliating, depriving, ignoring, harassing, controlling, intimidation, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, or unreasonable withdrawal of support
- **financial** - such as theft of money or property, fraud, internet scamming, coercion regarding financial affairs or wills, misuse of benefits
- **domestic abuse** - such as psychological, physical, sexual, financial abuse where abuse is carried out in a person's own home by someone who is an intimate partner or family member. This includes so called 'honour' based violence
- **neglect** - such as ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide care or treatment, failure to provide educational services, failure to provide adequate nutrition and heating

- **discriminatory** - such as harassment or ill-treatment because of race, gender, gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion
- **organisational** - such as neglect and poor practice by a care service for example, a hospital or care home, or a service provided in a person's own home
- **self-neglect** - such as an adult neglecting to care for their own personal hygiene, health or surroundings
- **modern slavery** - such as human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude
- **Exploitation to engage in acts of terror** - the current threat from terrorism in the United Kingdom is real and substantial and can involve the exploitation of children, young people and adults to engage them in activity to support terrorism. The Channel programme is part of the Government's Prevent Strategy. It aims to safeguard children and adults from being drawn into extremist activity. If you have any concerns please contact the number for the MASH overleaf

All people within our community deserve good care and support; they have a right to live in safe and secure surroundings without fear of harassment or harm. Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent or stop abuse and neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs.