

Who is at risk?

An adult at risk is someone who is aged 18 years or more who:

- has needs for care and support
- is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect, and
- as a result of those needs, is unable to protect themselves against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it

What is abuse?

Abuse can be:

- something that happens once
- something that happens repeatedly
- a deliberate act
- something that was unintentional, perhaps due to a lack of understanding
- a crime

Abuse can happen anywhere, at any time and be caused by anyone

It might be:

- a partner or relative
- a friend or neighbour
- a paid or volunteer carer
- other service users
- someone in a position of trust a stranger

What you can do

No one should have to live with abuse. By reporting abuse, you can help bring it to an end.

We all have a responsibility to safeguard others from abuse or neglect.

Doing nothing is not an option.

You can use the contact numbers on this leaflet to report abuse and/or to seek advice.

What happens after abuse is reported?

When you report abuse, people will:

- listen to you
- take your concerns seriously
- respond sensitively
- make enquiries about the concerns
- consider the wishes of the adult at risk
- talk to the police if it is a criminal matter
- support the adult at risk to achieve the changes they want, wherever possible
- develop a plan with the adult at risk to keep them safe in the future
- consider if anyone else is at risk.

What does the Lambeth Safeguarding Adults Board do?

The Lambeth Safeguarding Adults Board works to protect adults in Lambeth with care and support needs from abuse and neglect. The Board is made up of a range of organisations such as Lambeth Council, health services, police and voluntary agencies.

How to report abuse

To report a safeguarding concern or seek advice:

Call Adult Social Care on: **020 7926 5555**

Out of hours call: **020 7926 5555**

For more information visit the Lambeth's Safeguarding Adults Board website at:

www.lambethsafeguarding.org.uk

To report a crime:

In an emergency call the police on: **999**

If the person is not in danger now, call the police on: **101**



ABUSE

Doing nothing is not an option

Different kinds of abuse

Abuse can take many forms.

It might include:

Physical abuse such as being hit, kicked, being locked in a room or inappropriate restraint.

Sexual abuse such as being made to take part in a sexual activity when the adult has not given or is not able to give their consent.

Psychological abuse such as being shouted at, ridiculed or bullied, as well as being made to feel frightened.

Financial or material abuse such as theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with financial matters or misuse of someone else's finances.

Neglect involves the failure to provide care or support that results in someone being harmed.

Discriminatory abuse involves treatment or harassment based on age, gender, sexuality, disability, race or religious belief.

Modern slavery includes human trafficking and forced labour.

If these forms of abuse are caused by an organisation, it is sometimes called **organisational abuse**.

When abuse occurs between partners or by a family member, it is often called **domestic violence and abuse**.

Self-neglect is when an adult declines essential support with their care and support needs, and this is having a substantial impact on their overall wellbeing.

Always remember

- abuse is always wrong
- you can let the person being abused know that help is available. You could give them this leaflet
- try to include the person in the decision to seek help
- if someone is injured you may need to help them to get a doctor or call for an ambulance
- if you think a crime has been committed, you can call the police
- you can always get advice. You can do this anonymously.

This information can be provided in large print Braille, audio or a community language.

If you do not speak English and need help in understanding this document, please call **0207 929 1000** and state the name of your language. We will then put you on hold while we contact an interpreter.

To raise a concern
about adult abuse

Call **0207 926 5555**

www.lambethsafeguarding.org.uk

