

# Lambeth Safeguarding Adults Board: Safeguarding Adults Week

## Financial Abuse

### What is financial abuse?

Financial or material abuse can take the form of fraud, theft or using a vulnerable adults property without their permission. This could involve large sums of money or just small amounts from a pension or allowance each week. This [simple explainer](#) outlines some of the signs that someone may be experiencing financial abuse.

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### Recognising Mate Crime

Previous awareness surveys in Lambeth have highlighted that both residents and professionals are not alert to mate crime. Safeguarding Adults Reviews elsewhere in the country also point to low levels of awareness.

Mate crime occurs when a person is harmed or taken advantage of by someone they thought was their friend. In some cases of mate crime victims have been [badly harmed or killed](#). Indicators of mate crime can be similar to other forms of abuse - potential signs are outlined in our [simple explainer](#).

Mate Crimes are Disability Hate Crimes and should be [reported to the Police](#). You can also get support from [Lambeth's Hate Crime Reporting Centre](#) at We Are 336. To find out more, call 020 7735 5656.

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### Responding to scams

It is important to be aware that opportunists and criminals can take advantage of vulnerable residents who are self-isolating or live alone.

Friends Against Scams have created a list of all the [different types of scams linked to Covid-19](#), alongside a [quick guide](#) on how to protect yourself and others. They also offer [online learning](#) so that you too can become a Friend Against Scams!

Professionals and practitioners can also access the [National Trading Standards \(NTS\) Scams Team Practitioner E-Learning](#).

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### Understanding Lasting Power of Attorney

A Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) is a legal tool where you can give someone the legal authority to make certain decisions for you, if you become unable to make them yourself.

The Office of the Public Guardian have a [useful microsite](#) containing a wealth of information on LPAs, including leaflets and posters for download. The LSAB also has a [simple explainer](#) document to help people understand the benefits of an LPA.

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### Links to Domestic Abuse - learning opportunities

There is still space available at VAWG's Recognising and Responding to Economic Abuse training session taking place 24th Nov. [Click here to find out more and register your place](#).

Other sources of learning are outlined below:

- Surviving Economic Abuse have produced [guidance](#) on economic abuse while self-isolating, as well as practical issues including benefits and sick pay. The guidance is updated regularly as the situation changes.
- You can also find out more about VAWG's learning offer by exploring their [training programme](#).

We would also encourage you to take time to watch the recording of the recent Adult Family Violence safeguarding masterclass, [available to view here](#)