

Stop Abuse Now

Everyone has the right to be safe and protected from fear, violence and abuse. Children, unborns and vulnerable adults may be unable to take care of themselves or protect themselves from harm or exploitation.

Types of Abuse

Emotional or psychological abuse

Humiliation, blaming, controlling, coercion, intimidation, harassment, verbal abuse or withdrawal of services or supportive networks. For children, also bullying, age or developmentally inappropriate expectations and witnessing the ill treatment of another.

Sexual abuse

Persuading or forcing a child or adult to take part in sexual activities or encouraging them to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. This may include grooming, sexual exploitation or activities that involve watching sexual acts whether or not the child or adult is aware of what is happening

Institutional abuse

The mistreatment or abuse of a person or persons by regime, or individual staff within an 'institution'. It occurs when the routines, systems and norms of an 'institution' compel individuals to sacrifice their own preferred lifestyle and cultural diversity to the needs of the 'institution'.

Neglect

Failure to meet someone's basic physical and/or emotional needs, for example not providing food, hydration, warmth or shelter resulting in impairment of their health and development. Poor professional practice including withholding medication or ignoring physical care needs. For children, this may include missing hospital appointments, not protecting from danger or children witnessing domestic abuse.

Physical abuse

Hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking or restraining. Misuse of medication. Poisoning, drowning or suffocating. Fabricated or induced illnesses

Financial or material abuse

Theft, fraud, exploitation or pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions. To misuse or misappropriate the property of a person, or their possessions or benefits.

Discriminatory abuse

Based on a person's race, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, culture, lifestyle or disability.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 provides the framework for making decisions on behalf of individuals who lack the mental capacity to make particular decisions for themselves.

One of the act's key principles is that any act done for, or any decisions made on behalf of, a person who lacks capacity must be done, or made, in that person's **best interests**.

If it is practical and appropriate to do so, consult other people for their views about the person's best interests to see if they have any knowledge of the person's wishes, feelings, beliefs and values.

The *Assessing Mental Capacity* policy and the *Mental Capacity Assessment Tool* can be found on the Hub.

Child sexual exploitation

Child sexual exploitation is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for things such as money, gifts, accommodation, affection or status.

The manipulation or 'grooming' process involves befriending children, gaining their trust, and often feeding them drugs and alcohol, sometimes over a long period of time before abuse begins.

It is a form of abuse often mistaken by victims and outsiders as consensual; however, no one under the age of 18 can ever consent to being abused or exploited.

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation (sometimes referred to as female circumcision) refers to procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is illegal in the UK.



The role of the Independent Mental Capacity Advocate (IMCA)

- Supports the person who lacks capacity and represent their views and interests to the decision maker
- Obtains and evaluates information
- As far as is possible, ascertains the person's wishes and feelings, beliefs and values
- Ascertains alternative courses of action
- Obtains a further medical opinion if necessary

Contact the IMCA on 01384 456877

Mental Health Team

If you have concerns regarding the safeguarding of older people with mental health needs, you can seek advice from the safeguarding leads or the Older People's Mental Health Team.

Being in a confused state does not mean safeguarding concerns or allegations should not be taken seriously. They should be reported in the usual way.

Learning Disabilities

If you suspect someone with a learning disability is being abused, please contact one of the safeguarding leads or the Trust's Learning Disability Liaison Nurse.



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Do you have concerns?

If you have concerns about an adult or a child's welfare, discuss this with your line manager or a senior colleague.

If you are still concerned, document your concerns in the patients' records and report using Datix.

Speak to a duty social worker immediately and complete the written or electronic form as appropriate.

Safeguarding contacts

Children

Designated Paediatrician

Contact via switchboard (01384) 456 111

Named Nurse for Safeguarding Children

Extension 3316

Named Midwife for Safeguarding

Extension 1512

Dudley Children's Services

Office hours: (01384) 813200

Emergency Duty Team: 0300 555 8574

Adults

Designated Consultant

Extension 2210

Named Nurse for Safeguarding Adults

Extension 2719

Specialist Nurse Older People's Mental Health

Extension 1840

Learning Disability Liaison Nurse

Extension 4205

Hospital Access Team

(01384) 817200

Community Access Team

0300 555 0055

Older People's Mental Health Team

Extension 4206 or 1840

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The Dudley Group 
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Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults is everyone's responsibility

