

What if the adult decides to remain in unsafe circumstances?

Adults have the right to make their own decisions, even if these choices could be deemed as not right by others. If this is the case, professionals will work with the adult to help them to manage and to minimise risk.

If an adult is not able to make this decision, professionals and representatives will make a best interests decision.

If a safeguarding concern could affect other people or a crime has been committed, staff will contact other agencies or call the police. Professionals have a duty to safeguard people with care and support needs and will consider if the person carrying out the abuse or neglect is a risk to others.

Who to contact

You can talk to somebody or report concerns of the abuse or neglect of an adult with care and support needs by contacting Warwickshire Adult Social Care and Support on:

01926 41 20 80

To report a crime or raise a concern about abuse to Warwickshire Police, you can phone the non-emergency number on: **101**

But if it is an emergency you should always dial: 999

Where can I find out more information?

Please have a look on the following websites

Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board
<https://www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk/>

Adult Safeguarding Concerns - Warwickshire County Council
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/safeguardingadults>

Support for carers
<https://www.warwickshire.gov.uk/carers/adult-carers/1>



Worried about Abuse, Neglect or Exploitation



What this leaflet is about

- Kinds of abuse or neglect that may happen
- What to do if you have a safeguarding concern about yourself or an adult with care and support needs
- What happens when a concern is reported



Find out more information

Call Social Care and Support on 01926 41 20 80
Or visit Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board
www.safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk



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Who is at risk of abuse or neglect?

An adult is somebody aged 18 or over. Abuse can happen to anyone. Some people may be at risk of abuse and neglect due to their needs for care and support, and not be able to protect themselves. This could be because of:

- A learning disability
- A person's mental health
- A physical disability
- They are older people

Types of abuse

Abuse and neglect can be difficult to identify. Sometimes abuse happens over many years, but it can also begin later in life.

- **Psychological** - including threats of abandonment or of harming the person or themselves, harassment and verbal abuse, bullying, blaming the person for the abuse, gaslighting (causing a person to doubt themselves), isolation, humiliation and control
- **Physical** - such as hitting, scalding, dragging, or unnecessary restraint
- **Sexual** - including relationships and sexual acts where a person does not or cannot consent. It may be non-contact such as taking photographs.
- **Domestic** - such as coercive, threatening or controlling behaviours, violence in a relationship
- **Discrimination** - when physical or verbal abuse is targeted at a person because of gender, disability, race, ethnic origin or sexuality
- **Neglect** - this is when people who are supposed to help a person do not look after them properly. This may be leaving them without enough food, heating, personal care, money or allow people to visit
- **Financial** - including theft, fraud and scamming. In a relationship this is a way of controlling a person's ability to have, use and maintain their own money and independence
- **Self-neglect** - people can become very ill when they self-neglect. They do not eat, drink or take medication properly. They can live in unsanitary and/or hoarded homes and without heating or hot water
- **Organisational Abuse** - including a person's rights or dignity not being respected by staff in a care home or hospital
- **Modern Slavery** - including working or doing things without being paid or paid enough. People forced to work for people against their will. Being made to marry somebody you do not want to. Not being given the correct equipment or clothing to keep you safe. Coerced into sex work

What can you do if you think somebody you know is being abused, neglected or exploited?

If you have concerns about yourself or an adult with care and support needs being abused, neglected, or exploited, you can speak to somebody in confidence from Adult Social Care and Support or the police.

What happens if I report abuse or neglect?

You will be listened to and taken seriously. The consent of the adult will be sought and where appropriate, their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any actions will be respected. The adult will be involved in meetings if they wish.

Everyone is different and will need different support or advice depending on the situation.

More information may be needed to keep the person safe.

Social Care and Support may plan with other professionals like health staff or the police and make enquiries into the abuse reported.

Support

Support can be arranged for adults who have difficulties understanding or making decisions for themselves. They are known as advocates, and they will help the adult affected to express their views.

Social Care and Support staff who work with the adult will also:

- Support the person and their family or carers as appropriate
- If the person who carried out the abuse or neglect is important to the adult, they may try to maintain relationships
- If the adult does not want to see the person who abused or neglected them, staff will make this possible
- Advise that the person who carried out the abuse, neglect or exploitation may be investigated by the police

Where can abuse happen?

Abuse can happen anywhere.

- In the home that you live by a partner, family member or friend
- In a hospital, care home or at work
- In the community or at somebody else's home