

Safeguarding Concerns

'A sign of suspected abuse or neglect that is reported to the local authority or identified by the Local Authority'. (SAC) 2018/2019**

Safeguarding Enquiries

S42(2), (Care Act 2014) says that a S42 enquiry entails 'deciding whether action is necessary and if so what and by whom'.

'The action taken or instigated by the local authority in response to a concern that abuse or neglect may be taking place. An enquiry could range from a conversation with the adult to a more formal multiagency plan or course of action. Safeguarding enquiries can include cases of domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, modern slavery and self-neglect.' (SAC) 2018/2019**

Care and support is the term used to describe the help some adults need to live as well as possible with any illness or disability they may have. It can include help with things like:



It might also include emotional support at a time of difficulty and stress, helping people who are caring for an adult family member or friend or even giving others a lift to a social event. Care and support includes the help given by family and friends, as well as any provided by the council or other organisations.

'Care and support' is the term used to describe the help some adults need in order that they can live in the best way they can, despite any illness or disability they might have.
Dept. Health and Social Care (2015)

Adult safeguarding – What it is and why it matters

Safeguarding Adults 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 and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action.

This must recognise that adults sometimes have complex interpersonal relationships and may be ambivalent, unclear or unrealistic about their personal circumstances.

Care and Support Statutory Guidance (updated 26th October 2018)

Abuse is the improper usage or treatment of a thing, often to unfairly or improperly gain benefit. Abuse can come in many forms, such as: physical or verbal maltreatment, injury, assault, violation, rape, unjust practices, crimes, or other types of aggression. To these descriptions, one can also add the Kantian notion of the wrongness of using another human being as means to an end rather than as ends in themselves. Some sources describe abuse as "socially constructed", which means there may be more or less recognition of the suffering of a victim at different times and societies.

Some important characteristics and styles of abuse are:

- overt abuse
- covert (or controlling) abuse
- unpredictability
- disproportional (exaggerated) reactions
- dehumanisation and objectification
- abuse of information
- impossible situations (setting up to fail)
- control by proxy
- ambient abuse (gaslighting).

Wikipedia

Adults at risk may be people who:

- Are frail due to age, ill health, physical disability or cognitive impairment, or a combination of these
- Have a learning disability
- Have a physical disability and/or a sensory impairment
- Have mental health needs including dementia or a personality disorder
- Have a long-term illness/condition
- Are users of substances or alcohol
- Are unable to demonstrate the capacity to make a decision and is in need of care and support.

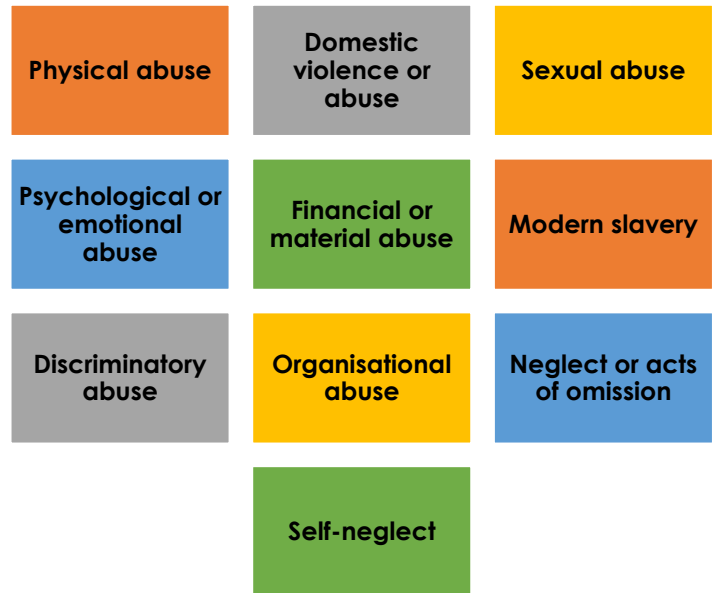
Various SAB websites

What constitutes abuse and neglect

This section considers the different types and patterns of abuse and neglect and the different circumstances in which they may take place. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list but an illustrative guide as to the sort of behaviour which could give rise to a safeguarding concern. This chapter also contains a number of illustrative case studies showing the action that was taken to help the adult stay or become safe.

Local authorities should not limit their view of what constitutes abuse or neglect, as they can take many forms and the circumstances of the individual case should always be considered; although the criteria (3 statutory criteria) will need to be met before the issue is considered as a safeguarding concern.

Exploitation, in particular, is a common theme in the following list of the types of abuse and neglect. *Care and Support Statutory Guidance (updated 26th October 2018)*



Neglect is a form of abuse where the person, who is responsible for caring for someone who is unable to care for themselves, fails to do so. It can be a result of carelessness, indifference, or unwillingness.

Neglect may include the failure to provide sufficient supervision, nourishment, or medical care, or the failure to fulfil other needs for which the victim cannot provide themselves. The term is also applied when necessary care is withheld by those responsible for providing it.

Wikipedia

Self-Neglect

This covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. It should be noted that self-neglect may not prompt a section 42 enquiry. An assessment should be made on a case by case basis. A decision on whether a response is required under safeguarding will depend on the adult's ability to protect themselves by controlling their own behaviour. There may come a point when they are no longer able to do this, without external support.

Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple and affect one person or more. Professionals and others should look beyond single incidents or individuals to identify patterns of harm, just as the CCG, as the regulator of service quality, does when it looks at the quality of care in health and care services. Repeated instances of poor care may be an indication of more serious problems and of what we now describe as organisational abuse. In order to see these patterns it is important that information is recorded and appropriately shared.

Care and Support Statutory Guidance (updated 26th October 2018)