



Recognise it. Report it. **Stop it.**

If you are worried about anyone who is suffering or may be at risk of abuse, there are people you can contact who will help.

www.alertabuse.org.uk

This information can be made available in other formats and in other languages. If required, please contact the Safeguarding Adults Team on **566 1736**.

Abuse **can** and **does**
happen to **adults**.

Working together to stop adult abuse

Every day vulnerable adults are physically, psychologically, financially or sexually abused, discriminated against or neglected by others.

And every day people witness this and say **nothing**.

Would you know what to do?

Agencies and organisations in Sunderland are working together to protect adults who, because of their dependency on others, are more vulnerable and therefore at greater risk of abuse.

This group is known as Sunderland's Safeguarding Adults Partnership (formerly known as MAPPVA).

The Safeguarding Adults Partnership believes that everyone has the right to:

- live life free from harm, abuse, fear or violence
- be safeguarded from harm or abuse

The aim of this leaflet is to provide advice and information on what you can do if you have concerns about someone who may be suffering or at risk of abuse.

Who may be most at risk of abuse?

Adults most at risk of abuse are those individuals, aged 18 years and over, who may be unable to:

- take care of themselves
- speak out for themselves
- protect themselves against abuse or exploitation

They may depend upon other people or a service to support or care for them.

What is abuse?

Abuse is any behaviour towards a person that deliberately or unknowingly causes him or her harm, endangers life or violates their rights.

Abuse may be:

- Physical – eg: hitting, kicking, restraint, forced isolation, or the improper administration of medication.
- Sexual – eg: rape, sexual assault, also voyeurism or indecent exposure.
- Psychological – eg: being made to feel unhappy, humiliated, afraid or devalued by others.
- Financial or Material – eg: stealing or denying access to money or possessions. Also denying rights such as the right to vote.
- Neglect – eg: deliberate withholding or unintentional failure to provide appropriate and adequate care and support, which is necessary for the adult to carry out daily living activities.
- Discrimination – abuse motivated by discriminatory attitudes towards race, religion, gender, disability or cultural background.



Where does abuse happen?

Abuse can happen anywhere, for example:

- at home
- in care homes
- in day centres
- at work
- at college
- in hospitals or other health centres/surgeries
- in public places in the community

Who abuses?

Anyone can abuse.

The abuser can be well known to the person, such as a partner or family member, a friend, work colleague, neighbour, acquaintance or a stranger. Abusers can also be people in positions of trust or power such as health or social care professionals, or paid or voluntary care workers.

What should you do if you have concerns that someone may be at risk of abuse?

You may be concerned about someone, whether or not you know them well.

Someone may tell you something that has happened to them or you may see or hear something happening to someone that makes you feel uneasy or uncomfortable.

If you have any concerns

You can contact the Safeguarding Adults Helpline **528 2748**

This line is open 24 hours a day.

Anyone can ring this number for confidential advice or information.

If you are worried about giving your name, you can discuss this with the person you contact.

In an emergency, if someone is in immediate danger, you should contact emergency services by dialling 999.

If you feel your concerns are of a possible criminal nature, you should contact:

Northumbria Police Main Switchboard **454 7555**



What happens next?

Sunderland's Safeguarding Adults Partnership has Procedures in place to ensure that any concern or allegation of abuse is taken seriously and dealt with sensitively and professionally. If you make contact through the Helpline, you will be informed of the process that will follow.

You can gain access to the Procedures, and a range of information on safeguarding, by visiting the website:

www.alertabuse.org.uk

If you require any specific information or advice, you can contact the Safeguarding Adults Team on **566 1736**.

Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Complaints Procedure

This procedure is open to anyone who may wish to complain about the way that the Sunderland Safeguarding Adults Procedure has been carried out. A complaint may therefore be received from service users, parents, carers, representatives, and anyone else who the Local Authority thinks has a sufficient interest in the matter concerned.

All complaints should be addressed either in writing, by telephone, or in person to the Responsible Officer for Safeguarding Adults Complaints (ROSAC) at:

Quality Assurance & Complaints Office
City of Sunderland
Adult Services
Leechmere Training Centre
Sunderland
SR2 9TQ

Tel: **(0191) 566 1470**

Fax: **(0191) 553 7253**

Email: **comments@ssd.sunderland.gov.uk**



The worst you can do is **nothing**