

# Safeguarding in the Coronavirus Crisis Information for Volunteers

What to look for and what to do if you are worried



# What is Safeguarding?

- Safeguarding is everybody's concern. Abuse of an adult or child can happen anywhere and be perpetrated by anyone
- Abuse is an action or a lack of action on the part of another person that causes harm
- Abuse can be, but is not always, a criminal offence
- Abuse is a violation of a person's human and civil rights
- Abuse may constitute domestic abuse/violence or hate crime
- Abuse or neglect may be the result of deliberate intent, negligence or ignorance.
- It is acknowledged that cause or neglect can take many forms

# Safeguarding Adults – Types of abuse

- **Neglect** - this is where a person's medical or physical care needs are ignored, or withholding basic needs such as food, medication and heating.
- **Self-Neglect** – this covers a wide range of behaviour and can include a person neglecting to care for their personal hygiene, health or surroundings which can have a direct impact on their safety, health and wellbeing.
- **Physical Abuse** – this is where harm is caused to a person. It can include being hit, kicked, and burnt or being given the wrong medication.
- **Psychological Abuse** – This is where an individual controls, intimidates or verbally abuses the adult involved.
- **Financial Abuse** – this is where someone misuses your property or finances, steals from you or commits fraud. It can also include the misuse of funds attached to personal budgets.
- **Domestic Abuse** – this is abuse or neglect which arises from within an intimate or family relationship and can include physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse.
- **Exploitation** - Exploitation can be a common theme in the experience of abuse or neglect. It can be where somebody uses another person for profit, or financial advantage.

# Safeguarding Children – Types of abuse

Are there children in the home you are visiting?

Children with a disability (visible or hidden) are at greater risk of abuse

Also consider that children/adults from emerging communities and other harder to reach groups may have increased vulnerabilities

Types of abuse to look out for:

- **Domestic Abuse** - is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. It can seriously harm children and young people and witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse.
- **Neglect** - is the on-going failure to meet a child's basic needs and the most common form of child abuse . A child might be left hungry or dirty, or without proper clothing, shelter, supervision or health care. This can put children and young people in danger. And it can also have long term effects on their physical and mental wellbeing.
- **Exploitation** - involves being groomed, forced or coerced into doing something that you don't want to do for someone else's gain.
- **Online abuse** - is any type of abuse that happens on the internet. It can happen across any device that's connected to the web.
- **Physical abuse** - is when someone hurts or harms a child or young person on purpose.
- **Sexual abuse** – is when a child or young person is sexually abused, they're forced or tricked into sexual activities.

# Other vulnerabilities

- **Toxic Trio** – a term used to describe the issues of domestic abuse, mental ill-health and substance misuse which have been identified as common features of families where harm to children and adults has occurred
- **Self Harm** - is when somebody intentionally damages or injures their body. It's usually a way of coping with or expressing overwhelming emotional distress.
- **Bullying** - However, it's usually defined as behaviour that is: Repeated, intended to hurt someone either physically or emotionally often aimed at certain groups, for example because of race, religion, gender or sexual orientation. It takes many forms and can include: physical assault, teasing, making threats, name calling cyberbullying - bullying via mobile phone or online (for example email, social networks and instant messenger)
- **Mate Crime** - is a form of hate crime and is defined as the exploitation, abuse or theft from any person at risk from those they consider to be their friends. Those that commit such abuse or theft are often referred to as 'fake friends'. People with disabilities, particularly those with learning disabilities, are often the targets of this type of crime.

# Social Media

Social media is a really powerful which enables people in the district know about services that are available to them in this difficult time

## You can use social media to:

- Promote the services you are offering
- Let people know central contact details in case they need support
- Show general photographs/videos of some of the items you can support them with

## Do not use social media to post:

- Pictures or videos of individuals receiving the support i.e. a food parcel, medication
- Pictures or videos that can clearly identify the front door / street of those individuals receiving support i.e. food parcel, medication

**Using photographs and videos of those receiving support could lead to these individuals been targeted and exploited by criminals.**

Once videos and pictures are available on these platforms, organisations can lose control of how they are used **and other people can use information from posts to identify and exploit or abuse people you are trying to help.** Where pictures and videos are being used by organisations they will need to seek written permission from those people in the picture/video, clearly explaining how it will be used and how long for.

# Disclosure

How a disclosure can be made:

- An adult at risk telling you of the abuse
- A passive disclosure where your attention is drawn to the symptoms of abuse
- When something 'doesn't appear right' to you
- An allegation of abuse by someone else
- You see or witness something that concerns you

**Remember, Remember ...**

- Keep yourself and others safe
- Report any thing you are concerned about
- Doing nothing is not an option

# Responding to abuse

- If you do become aware of abuse, make a record of the details as soon as possible, using the words of the person
- Don't ask too many questions or interview the person, ensure you have sufficient details to be able to accurately report the abuse.
- Try to limit the number of times people have to provide an account. If victims have to recall any abuse, this is a difficult process and each time can be distressing. It is better that they provide a more detailed account to professionals.
- Is there any form of corroboration? - other people who may have information, CCTV or other recordings.

**If you suspect an individual is at risk, ask yourself:**

Why am I concerned about this individual?

What do I think the level of risk is?

What are the implications of doing nothing?

What should I do right now?



# What to do

**As a volunteer responding to COVID 19,  
if you have a safeguarding concern about someone you are working with please speak to the safeguarding lead within your designated Hub for further advice**

If you are not connected to a hub, or are unsure ,please contact the services below:

## **For concerns regarding a child**

During office hours call Children's Social Care Initial Contact Point - 01274 435600 - (8.30am to 5pm Monday to Thursday, 8.30am to 4.30pm on Friday)

## **For concerns regarding an adult**

During Office hours call the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub on 01274 431077.  
Monday to Thursday: 8.30am to 5pm Friday: 8.30am to 4.30pm

if its outside normal hours please contact the number below

Out of Hours Emergency Duty Team

Telephone: 01274 431010 (outside office hours)

Monday to Thursday: 5pm to 7.30am

Friday to Monday: 4.30pm to 7.30am

[www.saferbradford.co.uk](http://www.saferbradford.co.uk) – provides more information on how to report a concern, further information and access to on-line training.

