

Examples of abuse

Margaret lives in a residential care home and her daughter, Angela manages all her finances. The care home fees have not been paid for 4 months and enquiries reveal that Angela has been taking all her mother's money and spending it on herself. This is an example of **financial abuse**.

Arthur has dementia and lives in a special unit of a residential care home. He has a care plan as to how to manage his condition and administer his medication. A care worker does not follow the care plan, holds Arthur down and forces Arthur to swallow his medication leaving finger marks and distressing Arthur.

This is an example of **physical abuse**.

Thomas has a learning disability and a physical condition which means he is incontinent. He has special pads to wear to keep him comfortable. Thomas is mostly able to live independently but he needs a carer to visit him twice a day to help with his personal care needs. The carer knows Thomas needs to change his incontinence pads but deliberately avoids changing them resulting in Thomas spending the night in soiled clothing.

This is an example of **neglect**.

What to do if you suspect abuse

If you are worried about an adult at risk in Wakefield district please contact us on the numbers below.

You can report your concern anonymously but please give as much information as possible so that we can follow it up

Wakefield Council:

Telephone: 0345 8 503 503

Minicom: 0345 8 503 503

Email: social_care_direct@wakefield.gov.uk

The above contacts are available all day every day.

POLICE: 101 non emergency
999 in an emergency

Care Quality Commission (CQC) 03000 616 161

Recognising and tackling adult abuse

A guide to safeguarding adults at risk of abuse in Wakefield district



What is abuse?

Abuse can take many forms. It might be:

- something that happens once or repeatedly
- a deliberate act or something that was unintentional, perhaps due to a lack of understanding
- a crime

There are many different kinds of abuse, these are just examples:

- **Physical abuse**, such as being hit, kicked, being locked in a room or inappropriate restraint.
- **Sexual abuse**, such as being made to take part in a sexual activity when the adult has not, or is not able to give their consent.
- **Psychological abuse**, such as being shouted at, ridiculed or bullied, as well as being made to feel frightened.
- **Financial or material abuse**, such as stealing someone's money or belongings, or misusing them for someone else's benefit .
- **Neglect** involves the failure to provide care or support which results in someone being harmed.
- **Discriminatory abuse**, involves treatment or harassment based on age, gender, sexuality, disability, race or religious belief.
- **Organisational abuse**, happens when companies that provide care do not provide services to the required level due to poor management or practices. The abuse may affect an individual, some or all those under their care.
- When abuse occurs between partners or by a family member, it is often called **domestic abuse**.
- **Self-neglect** - covers a wide range of behaviours, such as neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviours such as hoarding.



What are the signs of abuse?

There are many signs of abuse.

For example, when the person:

- Looks unkempt or is not dressed properly
- Has bruises or other injuries that are difficult to explain
- Seems frightened around certain people
- Seems unusually down or withdrawn
- Finds money or valuables are missing

Who are adults at risk?

Adults at risk are people, over 18, who are unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect as a result of their extra care and support needs.

They are people who need help to live a normal life. They can be people:

- with disabilities
- with mental health problems
- who are ill for a long time
- who are elderly
-

Making safeguarding personal

The safeguarding process is person-centred.

This means that the adult is listened to and kept involved to ensure the right results are achieved.