

What is Adult Safeguarding and What to do if you are worried?



This leaflet is to help people with a learning disability understand what abuse is, where abuse can happen, who could be at risk and which people could be involved to help someone.



Association for Real Change Northern Ireland (ARC NI) supports the learning disability sector and worked with different people to develop this leaflet.

The Northern Ireland Adult Safeguarding Partnership has arrangements in place to protect people from abuse.



All organisations in Northern Ireland have a duty to keep people safe. They have trained staff who are there to listen and support you if you have concerns, or want to talk about abuse.



A new role has been created called the Adult Safeguarding Champion. This person's job is to help staff and give them advice to help keep you safe from abuse.



They also look at all the reports of abuse and see if there are patterns.



The Champion will organise staff training and check that the safeguarding procedure is working well, or if there are changes that the organisation needs to do to make things better for people supported



You may or may not know the person who is the Adult Safeguarding Champion but if you don't, ask.

This leaflet provides information about

- Who is at risk of abuse
- What is abuse
- How it can be reported
- What happens after abuse is reported

Who is at risk?



An adult at risk is a person who is:

- 18 years or older
- Has care and support needs. This may be because of their age, disability, illness or mental health needs (called personal characteristics)

And / or

- Loneliness, money problems, housing problems (called life circumstances)
- It could be anyone, anywhere at any time.

An adult is in need of protection if:

They are an adult at risk

And

They are unable to protect themselves, their rights, or their property

And

The action or inaction of another person is causing them harm



Abuse can happen anywhere



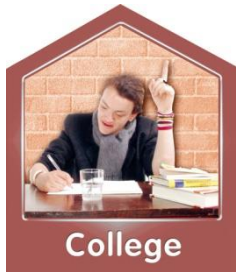
At home



In a residential or nursing home



In a hospital



In a day service, at work or in an educational setting



On the internet or phone



In a public place or in the community

Abuse can be caused by anyone



A partner or relative
A friend or neighbour
A carer or volunteer
Other people who use services
Someone in a position of trust
A stranger

Different kinds of abuse



Physical abuse – this involves contact such as being hit, slapped or kicked



Sexual violence and abuse – this is when someone touches your private parts when you don't want them to, or makes you touch them. It's also when someone talks to you about sex when you don't want them to



Psychological abuse – this is when someone makes you feel sad, afraid or not important. This could be by shouting at you, calling you names, or making fun of you.



Financial abuse – this is when someone takes something that belongs to you without asking, or makes you give them things, including money



Institutional abuse – this is when an organisation or care provider treats you badly, neglects you or provides a bad service



Neglect - this is when you do not get the help you need. It might include not getting help with your medication, or your care needs, or not giving you enough food



Exploitation – this can be when people treat you badly by using their power to control you



Domestic violence and abuse – this is when abuse occurs between partners or family members



Human trafficking / Modern Slavery – this is when people become the possession of someone else and are forced to do something they don't want to. For example, if someone forced to work with little or no pay, or threatened with violence if they do not work.



Hate crime – this is when someone treats you badly because of your race or religious belief, age or gender, sexuality or disability.

What you can do?



No one should have to live with abuse. By reporting abuse, you can help bring it to an end.

Doing nothing is not an option.



Remember: abuse is always wrong, whatever the circumstances.

Tell someone you trust.



To report a crime:

In an emergency contact the police by dialling 999

If the person is not in danger now, contact the police by dialling 101



To report a safeguarding concern:

Tell your support worker, key worker, social worker

Tell the Trust

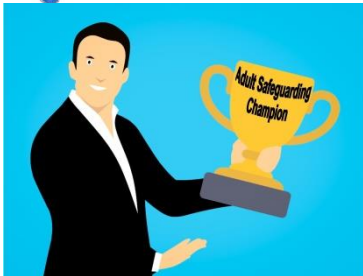
Which people may be involved in helping you?



Staff who support you on a daily basis



Family / Carers



Adult Safeguarding Champion



Social Workers



GP / Nurse



Police



What happens after abuse is reported?



People will:

- Listen to you
- Take your concerns seriously and respond sensitively
- Make enquiries about the concerns, taking notes
- Consider the wishes of the adult
- Consider if anyone else is at risk
- Decide what to do next – are you an adult at risk, or in need of protection?

What happens if you are an adult at risk?



If you are an adult at risk different things will be considered to:

- Offer you the support to achieve the change you want, wherever possible
- Develop a plan to keep you safe in the future.
- The Trust may, or may not, be involved in this.
- These are called alternative safeguarding responses.

How will you be Involved in making decisions?



Capacity means being able to make a choice, so you need to be able to understand what the options are and what they mean to you.

The law says that everyone over 18 years old can make their own choices unless we find out they can't. We must work hard to help people understand their choices before we say they don't understand.

Consent is being asked if you agree to something. This means saying yes or no.





There are many things the law says people must do to help you understand the choice.



This includes spending time with you, explaining things and getting help from someone who knows you well. They can help you communicate in a way that makes you feel comfortable.

Use things like Easy Read Factsheets, photos and pictures, to help you understand.



To give your consent you must be able to:

- Understand the information about the choice
- Remember the information long enough to make a choice
- Think about what is best for you
- Communicate your choice



If you are an adult at risk and you have capacity, you have the right to say yes or no to a referral (talking) to the Trust.



If you are an adult in need of protection a referral will be made to the Trust. People will work with you to keep you informed of what is happening and ask you what your wishes are.