

Who might abuse an adult at risk?

Abuse can happen anywhere and anyone can abuse an adult at risk. This can happen by accident or on purpose. An adult could be abused by:

- Relatives and family members
- Professional staff
- Paid care workers
- Volunteers
- Other service users
- Neighbours
- Friends and associates
- Strangers

Signs of Abuse

Some of the signs to look for are:

- Multiple bruising/finger marks
- Unexplained injuries
- Unexplained deterioration of health
- Sudden unexplained weight loss
- Inappropriate/inadequate clothing
- A carer who is unwilling to allow access to the individual
- A person who is unwilling to be alone with a particular carer
- Unexplained shortage of money
- A drastic change in lifestyle

Are you, or someone you know, being abused or neglected?

Any abuse is wrong, everyone has the right to live their life free from violence, fear and abuse.



An adult at risk is:

An adult who has care and support needs, such as a physical disability, mental health, long-term illness or who is elderly - who may be unable to protect themselves from abuse due to their care and support needs.

Types of Abuse

Physical – Including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication or restraint

Financial – Including theft, fraud, internet scamming, pressurising someone to make financial decisions they do not want or need to make

Sexual – Including rape or any sexual acts or witnessing of sexual acts that are not consented to

Emotional/Psychological – Including intimidation, threats, criticism, telling people what they can do, making someone feel guilty or bad

Domestic – Including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called ‘honour’ based violence, where someone is considered to have shamed their family

Neglect and Acts of Omission – Including ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services

Organisational – Including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or care setting, or in relation to care provided in one’s own home

Modern Day Slavery – Is when someone takes control of someone by force or abuse and uses them for forced labour, prostitution/sexual exploitation, to commit crimes or to work as a house slave

Self-neglect - This covers a wide range of behaviour, neglecting to care for one’s personal hygiene, health or surroundings and hoarding to a point where it is causing them serious harm

What to do...

If you are being abused or you think that someone you know is being abused, but it is not an emergency, you should tell someone you trust e.g. a family member, support worker, social worker, nurse or police officer.



Report a crime – 999

To report a non-emergency crime – 101

To report a safeguarding concern in Hackney

Call: 020 8356 5782

Email: adultprotection@hackney.gov.uk

To report a concern in the City

Call: 020 7332 1224

Email: adultsduty@cityoflondon.gov.uk

What happens next...

When you report a concern **we will:**

- Listen and take your concerns seriously
- Identify how we can keep the person being abused safe
- Ask you/the person what they want to happen or change
- Give you information about what support is available
- Keep you updated on what we are doing to help them
- Tell you which social care or health team will be looking into your concerns.

When meeting the person who may be being abused, **we will:**

- Listen carefully to them and find what they want to happen to make them feel safe
- Try and agree what needs to happen next with them
- Tell them about any actions we may want to take to help them
- Make sure they are involved as much as possible in making decisions about their safety.

