

How can you help?

You may suspect neglect or abuse because:

- You have general concerns about someone's well-being
- You see or hear about something which could be abuse or neglect
- Someone tells you something has happened or is happening to them, which could be neglect or abuse.

Some people will not be able to tell anyone they are being harmed. If you are worried about someone and think they may be at risk of harm then report it.

You must never assume that somebody else will recognise and report what you have seen or heard.

Please report any suspicions of abuse or neglect.



What happens after abuse is reported?

We will treat every report of suspected abuse seriously. Everyone is different and will need different support or advice depending on their situation. Where possible we will take steps to ensure the immediate safety of the adult at risk and anyone else affected by the alleged abuse, including children.

We will involve the 'adult at risk', or their representative, and will work together with them to plan what we can do to support and help keep them safe and as independent as possible. Together with our partner agencies, we will always do what we can to prevent abuse happening again.

We cannot do this without your help!

How can I report suspicions of abuse?

If you think an adult with care and support needs is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, Adult Social Care can offer advice and support to the person and/or their carers.

- Northumberland Onecall 01670 536400
- In an emergency call 999
- Non-emergency call to police 101

Thanks to South Tyneside Children and Adults Partnership



How to recognise signs of abuse and neglect



**Northumberland
Onecall
01670 536400**

To find out more information about Safeguarding Adults in Northumberland visit:
<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Care/Support/Safeguarding.aspx>

Safeguarding Adults in Northumberland

Northumberland Children and Adults Safeguarding Partnership works to protect adults with care and support needs from abuse and neglect.

To raise a concern about adult abuse or neglect call 01670 536400.

What is adult safeguarding?

Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop abuse or neglect.

Who is an adult at risk?

Many adults, because of illness or disability, may be unable to protect themselves from abuse. An adult at risk is someone who is aged 18 years or more who:

- Has care and support needs (whether or not the Local Authority is meeting any of those needs).
- Is experiencing, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect, and
- As a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect.

Who abuses and where does it happen?

Anyone can carry out abuse or neglect, including a carer, friend, neighbour, family member, professional, partner or stranger.

Abuse can happen anywhere: for example, in someone's own home, in a public place, in hospital, in a care home or college. It can take place when an adult lives alone or with others.

What is abuse?

Abuse and neglect can take many forms. It might include:

Discriminatory Abuse includes forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment; because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

Domestic Abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality, including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence.

Financial or Material Abuse includes theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions.

Modern Day Slavery encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Includes traffickers and slave masters using whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

Neglect includes ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services. Includes the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.

Physical Abuse including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication or restraint, and the use of inappropriate physical sanctions.

Psychological Abuse including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber - bullying, isolation and unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.

Self- Neglect covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

Sexual Abuse including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure, sexual assault, and sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

Organisational or institutional Abuse including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting, such as a hospital or care home, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. Organisational abuse can range from one off incidents to ongoing ill-treatment.

