

Care and Support Factsheet

Who is an adult at risk?

A vulnerable adult at risk is anyone aged 18 and over who:

- has needs for care and support
- is experiencing, or at risk of abuse or neglect
- is unable to protect themselves against significant harm or exploitation

What is abuse?

Abuse can be a single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, which causes harm or distress. It happens in many forms:

- Disability hate crime
- Discriminatory abuse
- Domestic abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Forced marriage
- Hate crime
- Honor-based violence
- Human trafficking
- Mate crime
- Modern slavery
- Neglect and acts of omission
- Organisational abuse
- Physical abuse
- Psychological abuse
- Restraint
- Sexual abuse
- Sexual exploitation.

Who could be an abuser?

- Spouses / partners
- Other family members
- Neighbours
- Friends
- Acquaintances
- Local residents
- People who deliberately exploit adults they perceive as vulnerable to abuse
- Paid staff or professionals
- Volunteers and strangers.

Where can abuse happen?

- In your own home
- At relatives or friends homes
- In residential or nursing homes
- In a day centre, social club, adult education centre
- In hospital or GP surgery
- Any public places.

What to do if you witness a person being abused

Take the following steps if you witness an abuse or to report an abuse:

- Make sure that the person is safe
- Listen calmly to the person
- Talk reassuringly to the person and guarantee confidentiality
- Explain that you must inform your line manager
- Tell them that with their consent they can get help and support
- Make an accurate report using the person's own words
- Describe the circumstances in which it occurred
- Keep person informed of all follow-on proceedings

In an emergency please call 999.

If you wish to discuss concerns about abuse or get advice ring Call Derbyshire on 01629 533190.

Go to www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk for more information.