



Protection of Vulnerable Adults Policy

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Project & Performance Improvement Officer
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Who is a vulnerable adult?

A vulnerable adult is a person aged 18 years or over who may be in need of community care services. The reason for this could be because they are unable to take care of themselves, or protect themselves from harm or from being exploited. This may be because they have a mental health problem, a disability, a sensory impairment, are old and frail, or have some form of illness.

What constitutes as abuse?

Abuse is the violation of a person's human and civil rights by another person or other persons. Abuse can happen anywhere and in a variety of different forms as the result of calculated intent, carelessness or ignorance.

Forms of abuse include:-

- **Physical Abuse** – e.g. hitting, kicking, slapping, scalding, restraint, misuse of medication.
- **Sexual Abuse** – e.g. rape, sexual assault, sexual acts which the vulnerable adult has not or could not have consented to or was pressured into consenting.
- **Psychological Abuse** – e.g. emotional abuse, threats of harm, threats of abandonment, being deprived of social contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, pressuring, harassment, oppression, verbal abuse, isolation, being prevented from receiving support services.
- **Financial or Material Abuse** – e.g. theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance, misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- **Neglect** – e.g. ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to educational, health or social care services, withholding the necessities of life such as food, water, shelter, heating and medication.
- **Discriminatory Abuse** – e.g. abuse based on a person's race, gender, age, creed, sexual orientation, or a person's disability.

Who might be responsible for the abuse?

Vulnerable adults may be abused by a variety of people such as:-

- **A relative or family member**
- **A health worker, care worker, or other paid or volunteer worker**
- **A friend**
- **A neighbour or local resident**
- **A service user**
- **An occasional visitor or person providing a service**
- **People who deliberately exploit vulnerable people**

What do you do if you are being abused or you suspect that someone you know may be the victim of abuse?

You should contact Adults Social Care detailed below.

What if the abuse is also a crime?

If the abuse is also a crime such as assault, harassment, rape or theft you should involve the police to prevent someone else from being abused.

If you are worried about contacting the police you can always contact Help Direct to talk things over first.

If immediate action is needed the Police should be contacted by dialling 999.

16 – 18 year olds

Any concern or allegation regarding abuse of a person aged between 16 and 18 should refer to children services. Even though the Mental Capacity Act 2005 defines an adult as aged over 16 years, they would not be dealt with under the safeguarding adults' policy and procedures unless they are over the age of 18 years.

What do you do if you come across someone who is vulnerable, in need or neglected?

If you come across someone who is vulnerable, in need or neglected the following contacts are available:-

Adults Social Care

Adults Social Care may be contacted on 0845 0530009 or at the following address: Red Rose Hub, Bluebell Way, Preston, PR2 5PZ.

Help Direct

Help Direct is a signposting service for helping adults in Rossendale and across Lancashire. Help Direct can offer the practical support, guidance and information for adults in need of assistance.

Help Direct can be contacted on 0303 333 1010 or email Toni Later at tlater@calico.helpdirectlancs.org.uk.

Rossendale Borough Council

Contact Liz Murphy, Head of People and Policy on 01706 252452.

Useful Legislation

Carer's (Recognition and Services) Act 1995
Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970
Data Protection Act 1998
Disability Discrimination Act 1995
Disabled Persons (Services, Consultation and Representation) Act 1986
Employment Rights Act 1996
Enduring Power of Attorney Act 1995
Health Act 1999
Health Services and Public Health Act 1968
Housing Act 1985
Housing Act 1996
Human Rights Act 1998
Local Authority Social Services Act 1970
Mental Health Act 1959
Mental Health Act 1983
National Assistance Act 1948
National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990
National Health Service Act 1977
Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1970
Power of Attorney Act 1971
Public Health Acts 1936 and 1961
Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998
Registered Homes Act 1984
Registered Homes (Amendment) Act 1991
Sexual Offences Act 1956
Sexual Offences Act 1967