

APPENDIX 2

DEFINITIONS OF ABUSE – ADULTS

The following information relates to the Safeguarding of Adults as defined in the Care Act 2014, Chapter 14. Safeguarding. This replaces the previous guidelines produced in 'No Secrets' (Department of Health 2000).

Legislation for England

The legislation is relevant across England and Wales but on occasions applies only to local authorities in England.

The safeguarding duties apply to an adult who;

- has need for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- is experiencing, or 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.

Organisations should always promote the adult's wellbeing in their safeguarding arrangements. People have complex lives and being safe is only one of the things they want for themselves. Professionals should work with the adult to establish what being safe means to them and how that can be best achieved. Professional and other staff should not be advocating 'safety' measures that do not take account of individual well-being, as defined in Section 1 of the Care Act.

Link: The Care Act 2014

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2014/23/contents/enacted>

Link: Care and Support Statutory Guidance under the Care Act 2014

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/care-act-statutory-guidance/care-and-support-statutory-guidance>

AP2.1 WHAT IS ABUSE AND NEGLECT IN ADULTS?

This section considers the different types and patterns of abuse and neglect and the different circumstances in which they may take place. This is not intended to be an exhaustive list but an illustrative guide as to the sort of behaviour which could give rise to a safeguarding concern.

AP2.1.a Physical abuse including assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.

AP2.1.b Domestic violence including psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse; so called 'honour' based violence.

AP2.1.c 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 and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

AP2.1.d Psychological abuse including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.

AP2.1.e Financial or material abuse including theft; fraud; internet scamming; coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills; property; inheritance or financial transactions; or the misuse or misappropriation of property; possessions or benefits.

AP2.1.f Modern slavery encompasses slavery; human trafficking; forced labour; and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment.

AP2.1.g Discriminatory abuse including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment; because of race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation or religion.

AP2.1.h Organisational abuse including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure; policies; processes; and practices within an organisation.

AP2.1.i 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; the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication; adequate nutrition; and heating.

AP2.1.j Self-neglect this covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. Incidents of abuse may be one-off or multiple, and affect one person or more.

AP2.1.k Spiritual abuse is the abuse of spiritual power and authority characterised by a systematic pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour.