#### SIGNS OF ABUSE – ADULTS

#### **AP4.1 PHYSICAL ABUSE**

- History of unexplained falls, fractures, bruises, burns, minor injuries.
- Signs of under or over -use of medication and/or medical problems left unattended.
- Any injuries not consistent with the explanation given for them.
- Bruising and discolouration particularly if there is a lot of bruising of different ages and in places not normally exposed to falls, rough games etc.
- Recurring injuries without plausible explanation.
- Loss of hair, loss of weight and change of appetite.
- Person flinches at physical contact &/or keeps fully covered, even in hot weather.
- Person appears frightened or subdued in the presence of a particular person or people.

## **AP4.2 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

- Unexplained injuries or 'excuses' for marks or scars.
- Controlling and/or threatening relationship including psychological; physical; sexual; financial; emotional abuse.
- So called 'honour' based violence and Female Genital Mutilation.

#### AP4.3 SEXUAL ABUSE

- Pregnancy in a woman who lacks mental capacity or is unable to consent to sexual intercourse.
- Unexplained change in behaviour or sexually explicit behaviour.
- Torn, stained or bloody underwear and/or unusual difficulty in walking or sitting.
- Infections or sexually transmitted diseases.
- Full or partial disclosures or hints of sexual abuse.
- Self-harming.
- Emotional distress.
- Mood changes.
- Disturbed sleep patterns.
- Psychological abuse.
- Alteration in psychological state e.g. withdrawn; agitated; anxious; tearful.
- Intimidated or subdued in the presence of a carer.
- Fearful, flinching or frightened of making choices or expressing wishes.
- Unexplained paranoia.
- Changes in mood, attitude and behaviour, excessive fear or anxiety.

- Changes in sleep pattern or persistent tiredness.
- Loss of appetite.
- Helplessness or passivity.
- Confusion or disorientation.
- Implausible stories and attention seeking behaviour.
- Low self-esteem.

# AP4.4 FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL ABUSE

- Disparity between assets and living conditions.
- Unexplained withdrawals from accounts or disappearance of financial documents or loss of money.
- Sudden inability to pay bills, getting into debt.
- Carers or professionals fail to account for expenses incurred on a person's behalf.
- Recent changes of deeds or title to property.
- Missing personal belongings.
- Inappropriate granting and / or use of Power of Attorney.

### AP4.5 MODERN SLAVERY

- Physical appearance; unkempt, inappropriate clothing, malnourished.
- Movement monitored, rarely alone, travel early or late at night to facilitate working hours.
- Few personal possessions or ID documents.
- Fear of seeking help or trusting people.

### **AP4.6 DISCRIMINATORY ABUSE**

- Inappropriate remarks, comments or lack of respect.
- Poor quality or avoidance care.
- Low self-esteem.
- Withdrawn.
- Anger.
- Person puts themselves down in terms of their gender or sexuality.
- Abuse may be observed in conversations or reports by the person of how they perceive themselves.

# AP4.7 INSTITUTIONAL ABUSE

- Low self-esteem.
- Withdrawn.
- Anger.

- Person puts themselves down in terms of their gender or sexuality.
- Abuse may be observed in conversations or reports by the person of how they perceive themselves.
- No confidence in complaints procedures for staff or service users.
- Neglectful or poor professional practice.

### AP4.8 NEGLECT AND ACTS OF OMISSION

- Deteriorating despite apparent care.
- Poor home conditions, clothing or care and support.
- Lack of medication or medical intervention.

## AP4.9 SELF-NEGLECT

- Hoarding inside or outside a property.
- Neglecting personal hygiene or medical needs.
- Person looking unkempt or dirty and has poor personal hygiene.
- Person is malnourished, has sudden or continuous weight loss and is dehydrated constant hunger, stealing or gorging on food.
- Person is dressed inappropriately for the weather conditions.
- Dirt, urine or faecal smells in a person's environment.
- Home environment does not meet basic needs (for example no heating or lighting).
- Depression.