

Who abuses?

Anyone can abuse. The abuser can be well known to a person (such as a partner or family member), a friend, work colleague, neighbour, acquaintance or a stranger. Abusers can also be people in positions of trust or power such as health or social care professionals or paid or voluntary care workers.

What should I do if I think that a child or vulnerable adult is being abused or is at risk of being abused?

- For a child telephone Torbay Council's Safeguarding Hub on **01803 208100**
- For a vulnerable adult telephone Torbay and Southern Devon Health and Care NHS Trust Customer Service Centre on **01803 219700**
- Devon and Cornwall Police Non Emergency Number: **101**
- NSPCC: **0808 800 5000**

In an emergency always call the police on 999

All safeguarding concerns raised will be assessed by highly experienced staff who will explore your concerns with you further, and where appropriate make decisions about what should happen next.

Do I have to give my name?

No it is your choice and you may choose to remain anonymous, however it is important that you provide as much information as possible to enable the right decision to be made.

Safeguarding
Adults



For further information visit:

www.torbay.gov.uk/tscb

www.tsdhc.nhs.uk

Everyone has the right to feel safe....



Concerned about a child or vulnerable adult?

Find out what you can do...

"Keeping children and vulnerable adults safe is everyone's responsibility"

This leaflet can be made available in other formats.
Contact 01803 207176.

2146/0813

Safeguarding
Adults



Keeping Children Safe

Most children enjoy a safe and happy childhood within their own family, but unfortunately for some, this is not the case. During difficult family times everyone has a responsibility to protect children from future harm; good care begins even before a child is born.

What is abuse and neglect?

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by another person. Abuse may consist of a single act or repeated acts and can take a number of different forms.

Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm, or by not taking action to protect a child from harm. Children may be harmed at home, by people living near their home (in their community) or by an adult who is responsible for caring for them in any place away from home. Sometimes children are abused by a stranger they have met over the internet.

Abuse may be:

Physical Abuse

This could include hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, inappropriate sanctions or restraint, as well as any potential injury like cuts, bruises, burns, scalds or broken bones that have not happened by accident. Injuries may be caused as a result of shaking in the case of babies. It can also be when someone deliberately induces illness in a child.

Emotional Abuse

This may involve constantly making a child feel worthless or unloved, frightened or in danger. It may involve serious bullying and seeing or hearing

the ill-treatment of another. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction.

Sexual Abuse

With children, sexual abuse is when a child is made to take part in or watch sexual activities: they may be around when someone is watching pornographic material. In many cases sexual abuse is carried out by a person known to the child.

Neglect

This can include including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services. A child may be left alone or left with unsuitable carers. They may not be fed or clothed properly. Neglect also involves not protecting a child from danger.

Who is a vulnerable adult?

Vulnerable adults are people aged 18 years and over who may be unable to:

- Take care of themselves
- Speak out for themselves
- Protect themselves against abuse or exploitation.

They may depend on other people or a service to support or care for them.

As with children, abuse is any behaviour towards a person that deliberately or unknowingly causes

him or her harm, endangers life or violates their rights.

As with children, abuse may be.

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional / psychological
- Neglect

Other forms of abuse may occur for adults such as:

- **Financial or Material** – stealing or denying access to money or possessions.
- **Discrimination** – abuse motivated by discriminatory attitudes towards race, religion, disability, cultural background.
- **Institutional** – neglect and poor professional practice within hospitals, care and nursing homes.

Where does abuse happen?

Abuse can happen anywhere for example:

- At home
- In care homes
- In day centres
- At work
- Schools or College
- Hospitals or other health centres or surgeries
- Public places or in the community