

Safeguarding for Volunteers

What to look for and what to do if you are worried.

What is Safeguarding

- ▶ Safeguarding is everybody's concern. Abuse of an adult or child can happen anywhere and be perpetrated by anyone.
- ▶ Abuse is an action or a lack of action on the part of another person that causes harm
- ▶ Abuse can be, but is not always, a criminal offence
- ▶ Abuse is a violation of a person's human and civil rights
- ▶ Abuse may constitute domestic abuse/violence or hate crime
- ▶ Abuse or neglect may be the result of deliberate intent, negligence or ignorance. It is acknowledged that cause or neglect can take many forms

Safeguarding Adults - Types of abuse

Neglect - this is where a person's medical or physical care needs are ignored, or withholding basic needs such as food, medication and heating.

Self-Neglect - this covers a wide range of behavior and can include a person neglecting to care for their personal hygiene, health or surroundings which can have a direct impact on their safety, health and wellbeing.

Physical Abuse - this is where harm is caused to a person. It can include being hit, kicked, and burnt or being given the wrong medication.

Psychological Abuse - This is where an individual controls, intimidates or verbally abuses the adult involved.

Financial Abuse - this is where someone misuses your property or finances, steals from you or commits fraud. It can also include the misuse of funds attached to personal budgets.

Domestic Abuse - this is abuse or neglect which arises from within an intimate or family relationship and can include physical abuse, psychological abuse, sexual abuse, financial abuse.

Exploitation - Exploitation can be a common theme in the experience of abuse or neglect. It can be where somebody uses another person for profit, or financial advantage.

Safeguarding Children - Types of abuse

Are there children in the home you are visiting?

Types of abuse to look out for:

Domestic Abuse - is any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. It can seriously harm children and young people and witnessing domestic abuse is child abuse.

Neglect - is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic needs and the most common form of child abuse². A child might be left hungry or dirty, or without proper clothing, shelter, supervision or health care. This can put children and young people in danger. And it can also have long term effects on their physical and mental wellbeing.

Exploitation - involves being groomed, forced or coerced into doing something that you don't want to do for someone else's gain.

Online abuse - is any type of abuse that happens on the internet. It can happen across any device that's connected to the web.

Physical abuse - is when someone hurts or harms a child or young person on purpose.

Sexual abuse - is when a child or young person is sexually abused, they're forced or tricked into sexual activities.

Disclosure

How a disclosure can be made:

- ▶ An adult at risk telling you of the abuse
- ▶ A passive disclosure where your attention is drawn to the symptoms of abuse
- ▶ When something 'doesn't appear right' to you
- ▶ An allegation of abuse by someone else
- ▶ You see or witness something that concerns you

Remember, Remember ...

- ▶ Keep yourself and others safe
- ▶ Report any thing you are concerned about
- ▶ 'Think Family' - A whole family approach
- ▶ **Doing nothing is not an option**

What to do

If you suspect an individual is at risk, ask yourself:

- ▶ Why am I concerned about this individual?
- ▶ What do I think the level of risk is?
- ▶ What are the implications of doing nothing?
- ▶ What should I do right now?

As a volunteer responding to COVID 19, if you have a safeguarding concern about someone you are working with please speak to the safeguarding lead within your designated Hub for further advice

Further Information from One Walsall can be found at

www.onewalsall.org

Information regarding safeguarding and further online training can be found at

www.walsallsp.co.uk