

Quick guide to safeguarding adults

What is 'safeguarding adults'?

'Safeguarding adults' means helping adults, who may be at risk, to stay free from abuse and neglect. It used to be called 'Adult Protection'.

Who is an adult at risk?

An 'adult at risk' is someone who is 18 years or over and needs community care services. As a result of their mental or other disability, age or illness, they may find it difficult to protect themselves from abuse. Children can also be at risk of abuse.

What is abuse?

The main types of abuse are:

- Physical
- Sexual
- Emotional/psychological
- Financial/material
- Neglect/acts of omission
- Discriminatory
- Institutional

Who abuses?

Lots of different people may abuse adults at risk; some examples are:

- the adult's own family and friends
- people who are employed to care for them
- people who deliberately target adults at risk

Not all abuse is intended. For example, a paid care worker may not know that a particular procedure or technique can harm a person. It is still important to report these situations as we can help. For example, we might be able to make sure the member of staff gets proper training.

What are the signs of abuse?

There are many signs of abuse, some examples are:

- The person looks dirty or is not dressed properly
- The person never seems to have money
- The person has an injury that is difficult to explain
- The person seems frightened

There may be other explanations but these are often signs of abuse. If you're not sure, it's better to report it to be on the safe side.

Islington Safeguarding Adults Partnership

What should I do if I suspect abuse?

If it's an emergency, stay safe and call 999.

Otherwise, call Islington Social Service Access Service on **020 7527 2299** (9-5), or 020 7226 0992 (outside office hours).

If you think a child is at risk, call the Referral and Advice Team on 020 7527 7400 (9-5) or 020 7226 0992 (outside office hours).

What happens next?

- We take any immediate action to help the person stay safe. For example, we might make the adult's property or finances more secure, or suspend a member of staff suspected of abuse.
- We talk to the adult at risk, or their representative if they lack mental capacity, to see what they want to happen.
- We gather as much information as possible, to see whether the abuse took place or not. If we think a crime has been committed, we may contact the police.
- We look at all the information and listen to the views of those involved, to decide what protection should be put in place. For example, we might restrict the abuser's access to the adult at risk, report abusive staff to the Independent Safeguarding Authority, or change the adult's care plan.
- Once protective measures are in place, we check to see that they are working. Once we are sure the adult is safe from abuse, we close the case.