

## **BwD Adult Learning - Safeguarding Adults (2019-20)**

As a service coming into contact with adults, some of whom may be at risk of abuse, all staff have a duty to be aware of the importance of the wellbeing of all members of the public, and particularly those considered vulnerable by society. This has been recognised by Ofsted and the Common Inspection Framework focuses on systems and staff awareness in organisations to ensure learners are safeguarded.

### **Who is an adult at risk?**

We have a duty to report a safeguarding concern about an adult at risk if there is cause to suspect the adult:

- Has needs 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.

### **What is abuse?**

Safeguarding from abuse means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

The aims of adult safeguarding are to:

- Stop abuse or neglect wherever possible;
- Prevent harm and reduce the risk of abuse or neglect to adults with care and support needs;
- Safeguard adults in a way that supports them in making choices and having control about how they want to live;
- Promote an approach that concentrates on improving life for the adults concerned;
- Raise public awareness so that communities as a whole, alongside professionals, play their part in preventing, identifying and responding to abuse and neglect;

### **What are the different types of abuse?**

- Physical abuse – is the non-accidental infliction of physical forces that may result in bodily injury
- Sexual abuse – is the direct or indirect involvement in sexual activity without consent
- Psychological abuse – (sometimes called emotional abuse) is behaviour that has a harmful effect on the adult's emotional well-being and development.
- Financial – including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with Wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
- Neglect/Acts of omission – This is for example the failure to provide medical, emotional or physical care needs including the withholding of the same.
- Discriminatory abuse - Discriminatory abuse is where people are inappropriately treated because of their race, disability, gender, age or sexual orientation.
- Organisational Abuse – this includes neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home or in relation to care provided in one's own home.
- Self-Neglect - This covers a wide range of behaviours including neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene or basic needs, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.
- Domestic Abuse – This is defined as any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual financial, emotional, honour based abuse and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- Modern Slavery - Modern Slavery encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Human trafficking is the movement of a person from one place to another, using methods of deception, coercion, the abuse of power or of someone's vulnerability and for the purposes of exploitation. It is possible to be a victim of trafficking even if their consent has been given to being moved. Human trafficking may occur across international borders or take place within one country.

Within Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council a Safeguarding Adults Concern Flow Chart (attached) has been produced to guide staff how to proceed should they have concerns that a member of the public they have come into contact with is suffering abuse. This is particularly relevant when working with adults who are considered vulnerable.

## Safeguarding Concern Flow Chart

To assist with decision making please also refer to the Adult Safeguarding Continuum and its accompanying document available on: [www.lsab.org.uk/policies](http://www.lsab.org.uk/policies)

