

Safeguarding Adults - Types of Abuse:

Adults can be vulnerable for many reasons which could include one or a combination of the following:

- Disability of any kind – physical, sensory
- Learning Disability
- Mental Health needs ranging from occasional mild depression to severe, chronic personality disorders
- Dementia
- Addictions
- Deterioration in physical or mental capacity due to age

These conditions can create vulnerability to abuse / exploitation as it means the person may not have the ability to protect themselves from significant harm.

Abuse or exploitation can show itself in any of the following ways:

- Physical harm – assault, wrong use of restraint, handling or medication
- Sexual – any sexual act not consented to or not able to be understood
- Emotional – threats, harassment, bullying
- Neglect – withholding essentials, ignoring needs, hampering access to support
- Financial – forcing a decision about a will or consent, not passing on benefits or gifts, borrowing money & not repaying it
- Spiritual – not allowing access to worship, cutting off contacts from a church, misuse of authority in the name of the church
- Domestic abuse (which can include one or more of the above)
- Discrimination of any kind
- Institutional abuse – restricting residents' access to their property, money etc, rigid times for meals & drinks & bedtimes, central control of heating, lighting, generally unsatisfactory professional conduct

Other groups of vulnerable adults include the bereaved, prisoners, ex-offenders and their families and survivors of childhood abuse.