Butterfly (Bath)

&

Bath and North East Somerset Council



Any abuse is wrong

- Everybody has the right to live their life free from violence, fear and abuse.
- Everybody has the right to live in safety

You have these rights especially if you are disabled, ill or an older person.

Safeguarding Adults from Abuse and Neglect

This leaflet is about abuse of adults and what you can do about it

Safeguarding issue 4: January 2020

This leaflet is about safeguarding vulnerable adults. A vulnerable adult is someone who may be in need of help because of a disability, illness or their age and is unable to take care of themselves or stop someone else from harming or exploiting them.

Abuse is when someone does or says something to you which harms you and makes you upset and scared. You may be afraid and do not know how to get the help you need. Abuse can be a single act or continue over months or even years. It can be accidental or deliberate. Just because there is no injury doesn't mean there is no abuse.

Who can be abused?

Anybody can be abused but it happens more often to people who:

- Are older and frail
- Have a physical disability
- Have learning difficulties
- Have sight or hearing loss
- Have mental health problems
- Have dementia
- Depend on others to look after them

Abuse can take many forms

Physical abuse

When someone hurts you by

- Hitting or slapping
- Pushing
- Kicking
- Shaking
- If you are given too much or not enough medication
- Rough handling
- Restraining you

Financial abuse

When someone

- Takes your money or belongings
- Makes you buy something that you do not want
- Uses your money to pay for their things
- Does not let you choose how to spend your money
- Says that you have to give them your money, belongings or home

Sexual abuse

When someone

- Rapes or sexually assaults you
- Touches you where you do not want to be touched in a sexual way
- Makes you touch them in a sexual way
- Makes you see films or photographs of sexual things

Discriminatory abuse

When you are treated unfairly because of

- Your race
- Your religion or culture
- Your disability
- Your gender
- Your sexual orientation
- Your age

Neglect

This is when you are not given the things you need, for example

- Assistance to wash and dress and with toileting
- Regular food and drinks
- Medication as prescribed by the doctor
- Seeing the doctor if you are ill
- A warm environment
- Clean clothes

Who abuses adults?

Anyone can abuse you; it could be someone you know or a stranger. It could be a relative, friend, neighbour, paid carer, or volunteer. Sometimes loving carers can abuse because they have become stressed and exhausted. Most people will not abuse but it does happen to some people.

Abuse can happen anywhere

- In your own home
- In a care home
- In hospital
- In public place

What should I do if I am worried about being abused?

Tell someone you trust as soon as you can. This could be:

- Your family
- Your friend
- Your doctor
- Your district nurse
- Your carer
- Your religious leader
- Your care manager
- The Police

You can contact BANES Community Services on 01225 396000 to report abuse. They will offer advice and assistance to help stop the abuse happening.

Abuse is not your fault. No one has the right to abuse you. You may need help to make it stop.

Please do not ignore your concerns and let the abuse continue.

What happens next?

- The person you tell will listen to you and will give you help and support to report the abuse to a social worker or police officer.
- They will help you to stay safe and help ensure the abuse stops.
- Where necessary they will involve other professionals to investigate and protect you from further abuse.

Confidentiality

Information will be treated as confidential. There may be occasions when some information needs to be shared when it is in the best interest of the abused person.

Helpful telephone numbers / websites

BANES Community Services 01225 396000

https://bcssp.bathnes.gov.uk/safeguarding-adults

Emergency Duty team for out of hours: 01454 615165

Police: call 101

or

in an emergency where a crime is being committed or life is in danger ring **999**

Butterfly: 01225 835888 (7am to 10pm)

Action on Elder Abuse confidential helpline: 02088 359280

www.elderabuse.org.uk

Useful numbers for child protection / Domestic Violence

Child Care Duty Desk: 01225 396313