

How do I report harm, exploitation or neglect?

Police, health and social care staff work together to safeguard adults at risk of harm or in need of protection.

In an emergency call: **999**

To report your concerns call: **101**

For advice contact your local Social Services office, GP, Health Professional or any adult abuse hotline.

Domestic Violence Helpline: **0800 917 1414**

Action on Elder Abuse Hotline: **0808 808 8141**

Or alternatively:

Contact the Adult Gateway Protection Team

During Office Hours, Mon-Fri 9am-5pm (028) 3756 4423

Outside of working hours (028) 9504 9999

What happens next?

We will take steps to ensure the immediate safety of the adult at risk and anyone else that may be at risk, including children.

We will talk with the adult at risk or their advocates to find out what happened and investigate their concerns. We will work together with them to plan what we can do to support the adult to achieve the changes they want to help keep them safe whenever possible.

Where there are concerns of a criminal nature we will consult with PSNI and support you through this process.

We will always do what we can to help prevent abuse happening again.



Southern Health
and Social Care Trust



Are you **worried**
that you or an adult you
know is being harmed or
neglected?

Adult Safeguarding can help.....

What is Adult Safeguarding?

Adult Safeguarding supports people to get the right help to make things better and prevent harm from occurring in the first instance. Safeguarding will also support and protect adults where harm has occurred.



Harm can happen to anyone over **18** years old, who because of their age, disability, illness or life circumstances may be exposed to a higher risk of harm.

Adult Safeguarding will support you or someone you know who has been hurt, is afraid or feels isolated because of something someone has done.



Adults may experience different types of abuse

Psychological Abuse

Being shouted at, ridiculed or bullied, as well as being made to feel frightened.

Sexual Abuse

For example when someone touches you in a way you don't like or understand.

Financial Abuse

Theft, fraud, exploitation of someone else's money or belongings.

Neglect

Failing to provide care or support that results in someone being harmed.

Physical Abuse

Such as being hit, kicked, being locked in a room or inappropriately restrained

Institutional Abuse

The mistreatment or neglect of an adult by systems or individuals in settings where they live, visit or receive services. It includes poor standards of care, practice and behaviours.

Related Definitions

Modern Slavery

Includes human trafficking and forced labour.

Domestic Violence and abuse

Any type of controlling, bullying, threatening or violent behaviour between people in a relationship. Not just physical violence.

Hate Crime

A prejudice-motivated crime, usually violent.

What are some possible signs of abuse?

Appearing unusually scared, upset or withdrawn

Unexplained pregnancy or sexually transmitted disease

Unexplained injuries, repeated visits to GP or Accident & Emergency Department

Not having enough money to buy food or pay bills when enough money should be available

Being isolated from family and friends

Not looking after yourself or not being cared for properly by others