



Abuse and Neglect

Safeguarding adults is protecting your right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.

This leaflet tells you what abuse and neglect is, types of abuse, how to report a concern and what happens when a concern has been reported.

Who are Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board?

- Lewisham Safeguarding Adults Board is an independent body consisting of board members who work together to safeguard adults from abuse and neglect in Lewisham.
- Board members represent a wide variety of health, social care and other local organisations.

What is abuse?

- Abuse is mistreatment by any other person (or persons) that violates a person's human and civil rights. The type of abuse can vary greatly from controlling behaviour to physical abuse.

What is neglect?

- Neglect is a form of mistreatment by individuals resulting from inadequate attention, especially through carelessness or disregard for the needs of others.

Abuse and neglect can happen anywhere

- In your own home
- In a care home
- In hospital
- In the workplace
- In the street

Abuse and neglect can happen anytime and can be committed by anyone

- Partners / spouse and family members
- Neighbours and friends
- Local residents, volunteers and strangers
- Paid staff and professionals

Forms of abuse

There are many types of abuse. Neglect is one type of abuse. Many types of abuse are also criminal offences and should be treated as such. We have listed the most common types of abuse and their definitions, some abuse may involve more than one different type.

Abuse Type	Definition
Domestic Abuse	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.
Discriminatory Abuse	Discrimination on the grounds of race, faith or religion, age, disability, gender, sexual orientation and political views.
Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)	Procedures that intentionally alter or injure female genital organs for non-medical reasons.
Financial or Material Abuse	Theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
Hate Crime	Any criminal offence committed against a person or property that is motivated by hostility towards someone based on their disability, race, religion, gender identity or sexual orientation.
Honour-based Violence	Includes domestic violence, concerns about forced marriage, enforced house arrest and missing person's reports.
Human Trafficking	The supply of people and services to a customer, for the purpose of making a profit.
Modern Slavery	Slavery, servitude and forced or compulsory labour.
Neglect and Acts of Omission	Ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, and the withholding of the necessities of life such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating. Neglect also includes a failure to intervene in situations that are dangerous to the person concerned or to others, particularly when the person lacks the mental capacity to assess risk for themselves.
Organisational Abuse	The mistreatment, abuse or neglect of an adult by a regime or individuals in a setting or service where the adult lives or that they use.
Physical Abuse	Assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate physical sanctions.
Psychological Abuse	Emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, cyber bullying, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.
Sexual Abuse	Rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.
Sexual Exploitation	Exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where adults at risk receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing sexual acts.

What do I do if I suspect abuse and neglect?

If you suspect that you or an adult you care about may be at risk of abuse or neglect

- Call the **Police on 999** if you have concerns about the immediate safety of an adult at risk.
- Speak to someone you trust like your GP, social worker, carer, family or friend who can raise a safeguarding concern on your behalf.

**To raise a safeguarding concern, please contact
Lewisham Social Care Advice & Information Team (SCAIT)
Telephone: 020 8314 7777 (select option 1)
Email: SCAIT@lewisham.gov.uk
Fax: 020 8314 3014
In person: Reception, Laurence House
1 Catford Road, SE6 4RU.**

What happens next?

- Trained professional staff will contact the person being abused and will work with them to understand what is happening and agree how to deal with the situation.
- The adult at risk will be fully involved in the process wherever possible.
- Professional staff may have to talk to other people who may also be affected. Other agencies such as the police and health services may be involved but you will be kept informed of the reasons why.
- Safeguarding concerns will be recorded on a computerised data system.

How will that person be treated?

- Their concerns will be listened to in a confidential, sensitive manner.
- Their concerns will be taken seriously.
- The person who is being abused will be asked what outcomes they want from the investigation.
- The person will be treated with dignity and respect.
- We will provide that person with the appropriate support if they are unable to make decisions for themselves.

More information on safeguarding adults in Lewisham is available on our website www.safeguardinglewisham.org.uk/lsab