

Factors which increase a person's vulnerability to abuse and exploitation

Personal characteristics of a person at risk that can increase vulnerability may include:	Personal characteristics of a person at risk that can decrease vulnerability may include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not having mental capacity to make decisions about their own safety including fluctuating mental capacity associated with mental illness and other conditions • Communication difficulties • Physical dependency – being dependent on others for personal care and activities of daily life • Low self esteem • Experience of abuse • Childhood experience of abuse 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having mental capacity to make decisions about their own safety • Good physical and mental health • Having no communication difficulties or if so, having the right equipment/support • No physical dependency or if needing help, able to self-direct care • Positive former life experiences • Self-confidence and high self-esteem
Social/situational factors that increase the risk of abuse may include:	Social/situational factors that decrease the risk of abuse may include:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being cared for in a care setting, that is, more or less dependent on others • Not getting the right amount or the right kind of care that they need • Isolation and social exclusion • Stigma and discrimination • Lack of access to information and support • Being the focus of anti-social behaviour 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good family relationships • Active social life and a circle of friends • Able to participate in the wider community • Good knowledge and access to the range of community facilities • Remaining independent and active • Access to sources of relevant information