



# Safeguarding Adults



Safeguarding adults refers to the steps public services take to protect vulnerable people at risk of abuse. In the past this has been termed “adult protection” or “elder abuse”. Everyone has a right to live a life free from fear and harm and support is available to help people stay safe.

## What is abuse?

Abuse can happen anywhere and can be carried out by anyone. Abuse is anything that harms another person and might include:

- Physical abuse such as being hit or locked in a room
- Verbal abuse such as being shouted at or sworn at
- Emotional abuse such as being bullied, taunted or humiliated
- Sexual abuse such as inappropriate touching or forcing someone to take part in a sexual act against their will
- Financial abuse such as taking or withholding money
- Neglect such as not getting necessary food, care or medicine
- Discrimination such as ill treatment due to age, gender or disability

## Report concerns

People who need care and support must be able to trust and depend on the people they rely on for help. No abuse is acceptable. Some abuse is a criminal offence and should be reported to the Police as soon as possible.

Any concerns of abuse or neglect should be reported either to Hampshire Adult Services on **0300 555 1386** or the Police on **101**. In an emergency and if it is believed someone is in immediate danger, **999** should always be called.

## What will happen next?

If you report concerns because you suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused or you are being abused yourself:

- You will be listened to and your concerns will be taken seriously.
- Your concerns will be looked into fully and fairly. Trained staff will work with you to stop the abuse and agree with you steps to protect you from further harm.



For online information on keeping safe, how to report concerns and sources of help and advice go to [www.hampshiresab.org.uk](http://www.hampshiresab.org.uk)