

CATEGORIES OF ABUSE



Safeguarding at
The Skills Network



the **skills** network

CATEGORIES OF ABUSE

Types of abuse	Definition
Physical	Being hit or injured on purpose, restraining someone inappropriately, or administering medication against someone's will.
Sexual	Any sexual act to which the adult at risk has not consented or does not have the capacity to consent.
Psychological or emotional	Intimidation, threats, bullying, verbal or psychological abuse, or denying a person social contacts or sensory stimulation. Preventing the expression of choice and opinion, a failure to respect privacy, and preventing stimulation, meaningful occupation or activities.
Financial or material	Taking or misusing another person's money, benefits or possessions without their permission – including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.
Organisational or institutional	<p>The attitudes and procedures by which the institution operates combine to produce an abusive regime – including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discouraging visits or the involvement of relatives or friends • Run-down or overcrowded establishment • Authoritarian management or rigid regimes • Lack of leadership and supervision • Insufficient staff or high turnover resulting in poor quality care • Abusive and disrespectful attitudes towards people using the service • Inappropriate use of restraints • Lack of respect for dignity and privacy.
Discriminatory	<p>Types of discriminatory abuse include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unequal treatment based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation ('protected characteristics' under the Equality Act 2010). • Verbal abuse, derogatory remarks or inappropriate use of language related to a protected characteristic. • Denying access to communication aids, not allowing access to an interpreter, signer or lip-reader. • Harassment or deliberate exclusion on the grounds of a protected characteristic. • Denying basic rights to healthcare, education, employment and criminal justice relating to a protected characteristic. • Substandard service provision relating to a protected characteristic.

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Domestic	Domestic violence and abuse includes 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. It also includes so called 'honour' based violence, such as female genital mutilation and forced marriage. This type of abuse can be psychological, physical, sexual, financial, or emotional in nature.
Modern slavery	Examples of modern slavery include human trafficking, forced labour, domestic servitude, sexual exploitation, such as escort work, prostitution and pornography, debt bondage – being forced to work to pay off debts that realistically the person never will be able to pay.
Mate crime and hate crime	Mate crime and hate crime are classed as types of abuse by some local authorities and not by others, however, many authorities recognise this as a problem. The outcome of mate crime or hate crime taking place may crossover with the other types of abuse you have already looked at, although the way in which the abuse is initiated is different. Hate crime involves any hate incident which is a criminal offence that is motivated by prejudice or hate. Mate crime refers to a person abusing or exploiting someone with care needs who sees them as a friend.
Neglect	Failure on the part of the parent or carer to provide individuals with, or allow access to, food, shelter, clothing, heating, stimulation and activity, personal or medical care. Neglect could also involve refusing access to visitors, not taking into account cultural, religious or ethnic needs and not taking into account educational, social and recreational needs.
Child sexual exploitation	Children in exploitative situations and relationships receive something such as gifts, money or affection as a result of performing sexual activities or others performing sexual activities on them. Children or young people may be tricked into believing they're in a loving, consensual relationship. They might be invited to parties and given drugs and alcohol. They may also be groomed online.
Female genital mutilation	Female genital mutilation (FGM) is the partial or total removal of external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. It's also known as female circumcision, cutting or sunna. Religious, social or cultural reasons are sometimes given for FGM.
Cyberbullying	Cyberbullying is the bullying of individuals on line through various outlets of modern technology. This can include isolating or ignoring someone, verbal abuse, gossiping, threatening or humiliating behaviour.
Child trafficking	Child Trafficking is the act where children find themselves in situations where they are forcibly required to move and/or live in settings which they have no control over. Normally children are trafficked for reason such as; Sexual exploitation, slavery or financial gain.