

## Safeguarding Adults

Everyone has the right to be safe, no matter who they are or what their circumstance

Safeguarding is about protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults from abuse or neglect.

We are all responsible for the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults and must ensure that we are doing all we can to protect the most vulnerable members of our society.

The practice has safeguarding policies to ensure both children and vulnerable adults are safe and our clinicians are trained to identify when people may be at risk of abuse.

This leaflet has been designed to highlight to people what abuse is, how it can be identified and report it to ensure people get the help they need to stay safe and independent.

## Safeguarding Adults

### ARE YOU CONCERNED?

Do you know an adult who is being treated badly, taken advantage of, or injured?

If so, call the  
**Ask SAL Helpline**  
**08452 66 66 63**



#### Who is a vulnerable adult?

Someone in need of help because of a disability, illness or age and is unable to take care of themselves or stop someone else from harming or exploiting them.

#### What is abuse?

Abuse may be:

- Neglect
- Physical abuse
- Financial abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological/ Emotional abuse
- Discriminatory abuse
- Institutional abuse

#### Who abuses and where does it happen?

Anyone can be an abuser. Abuse can happen anywhere e.g. in someone's own home, a residential or nursing home, day centres or hospitals.

#### What can you do?

Report it. If you see, hear or suspect that a vulnerable adult is being abused call Ask Sal on 08452 66 66 63

### VULNERABLE ADULT & ELDER ABUSE

**SEE IT.**  
**STOP IT.**  
**REPORT IT.**



## 'Adults at Risk'



## SAFEGUARDING

## Ravensbury Park Medical Centre

Ravensbury Lane, Morden Road, Mitcham, CR4 4DQ

Tel 020 8407 3927

[www.ravensburyparkmedicalcentre.co.uk](http://www.ravensburyparkmedicalcentre.co.uk)

Please take a copy

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## What is abuse?

Abuse is behaviour towards a person that deliberately or unintentionally causes harms. It is a disregard of a person's human rights and in the worse case can endanger life.

### Different types of abuse

- Physical Abuse
- Sexual Abuse
- Psychological Or Emotional Abuse
- Financial Or Material Abuse
- Modern Slavery
- Discriminatory Abuse
- Neglect Or Acts Of Omission
- Self Neglect

### What are the signs of abuse?

General Signs that someone has been or is being abused include:

- Unexplained Injury
- Signs of Distress
- Withdrawal or Isolation
- Unexplained Pregnancy or Sexually Transmitted Disease
- Self-Neglect or Basic Physical & Emotional Needs not being met by others

## Which adults are at risk of abuse?

'Adults at Risk' are people aged 18 years and over. They may:

- Rely on other people or services to care for them or support them with day to day tasks, may be because of their age, a physical or learning disability, other physical or mental health need or involvement in substance abuse.
- Lack of Mental Capacity
- Not be able to speak up for themselves

### Where might abuse happen?

Abuse can happen anywhere; in people's homes, public areas, day centres, residential homes, hospitals, GP surgeries, colleges, police stations and prisons.

### Who abuses?

Anyone including, professionals, volunteers, trade people, family members, carers, partners, friends and neighbours can abuse anyone.

## How to report abuse

Whoever you are, if you see or hear something that concerns you and you suspect that abuse may be happening, or someone tells you that they have been abused, you should or they should telephone any of the following helplines:

- Immediate danger: 999
- Merton Adult Safeguarding Team: 0845 618 9762 [24 hours a day]
- 020 8545 4388 [9.30am-1.30pm]
- Email: [safeguarding.adults@merton.gov.uk](mailto:safeguarding.adults@merton.gov.uk)
- AsKSAL – Safeguarding Adults Line: 08452 666 663
- Action on Elder Abuse: 0808 808 8141
- Speak to your GP

### What happens next?

Whatever you tell us will be treated with sensitivity. You will be asked for details about the person you think is at risk or is being abused and about the person you think is the abuser. It is very important that we protect the person you are worried about and that they are safe. Upon receipt of the concern we will look very carefully at the situation and following an investigation any outcome would depend on the individual circumstance and the wishes of the vulnerable person.