

# Safeguarding Adults in Swindon



It is everyone's  
responsibility to  
know about and  
report  
abuse or neglect

# From April 2015, a new duty came into force to safeguard adults from abuse and neglect

## 1. Who is covered by this duty?

The Care Act 2014 makes it a duty of local authorities to make enquires (or make sure others do so) when an adult: (18 years and over)

- has needs for care and support
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect and
- as a result of their care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from abuse or neglect (or the risk of it)

## 2. What is adult abuse?

Abuse is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons. Abuse can take many forms:

### ○ Physical abuse

Including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, burning, misuse of medication, inappropriate restraint or Sanctions.

### ○ Psychological abuse

Including emotional abuse, verbal abuse, humiliation, bullying, or the use of threats.

### ○ Financial or material abuse

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.

### ○ Sexual abuse

Direct or indirect sexual activity where the adult cannot or does not give their consent or pressured into to consenting.

### ○ Neglect or acts of omission

The repeated denial of help that an adult needs which, if withdrawn, will cause him or her to suffer.

### ○ Organisational abuse

Neglect or poor care practice in a care setting such as a hospital or care home or in relation to care provided in someone's own home. This could be due to the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

### ○ Discriminatory abuse

Including forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment based on a person's ethnic origin, religion, language, age, sexuality, gender or disability.

### ○ Domestic abuse

Incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or any abuse by someone who is or has been an intimate partner or family member regardless of gender or sexuality.

### ○ Modern Slavery

Encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude.

### ○ Self-Neglect

A wide range of behaviour seriously neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

## 3. Who may abuse?

- A partner, child, relative or friend
- A paid or volunteer carer
- A health, social care or other worker
- Anyone

## 4. Where may abuse occur?

Abuse can happen anywhere, for example:

- In someone's own home
- At a carer's home
- Within nursing care, residential care or day care
- At work or in educational settings
- In public places
- Online

## 5. What you need to do to report abuse of an adult in need for care and support

If the adult is in immediate danger or in need of medical attention or if a crime has been committed contact the Emergency Services - Police and/or Ambulance Service.

### **During office hours (Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm):**

Contact the Swindon Safeguarding Team: 📞 **01793 463555**

Safeguarding Adults Investigation Unit, Wiltshire Police  
📞 **01380 734212**

### **Out of hours (for concerns requiring urgent attention)**

Emergency Duty Service (out of hours) 📞 **01793 436699**

Police 📞 **101**

**It is everyone's responsibility to know about and report Abuse or Neglect**

If you require this leaflet in large print or another format then please contact Customer Services on 01793 445500