

Why you should report

If you know of a worrying situation please do not ignore it. An adult who cannot take care of themselves may not be able to raise the alarm so it is important you do and help to make the abuse stop.

Safeguarding and protecting vulnerable adults is everyone's business.



Safeguarding Adults is Everyone's Business Advice

What will happen if you report abuse?

- If you are concerned about yourself or another take action and share your concerns.
- The Safeguarding Adults Team will contact the person you suspect is being abused and listen to what they have to say.
- With the consent of the person harmed they will gather information from other involved in their care and make sure that the person is safe
- If a crime has been committed they will support the person harmed in reporting it to the police if appropriate.
- They will provide help and advice on how to prevent the abuse from happening again.
- Help and support will be available to everyone, including you for reporting the abuse.

Contacts

If you have any concerns that either yourself or another person is being abused or neglected contact the Safeguarding Adults Team on 685969.

If the adult is in immediate danger contact police or ambulance on 999.



Advice to the public regarding the protection of adults at risk

Vulnerable adults have the right to live their lives free from abuse and harm. They should be able to choose how to live their lives independently, receive support in doing this and be treated with respect.

The Isle of Man Safeguarding Board is a multi-agency partnership that exists to help prevent harm from happening to adults at risk from abuse and or neglect.

We believe that safeguarding is everyone's business and together we all have a part to play in preventing and reporting abuse and neglect.

What is abuse?

Abuse is the violation of a person's human and civil rights by any other person. It is where someone does something to another person that puts that person at risk of harm or has a negative impact on their quality of life.

Abuse may be deliberate, or may be as a result of ignorance or lack of training. It can happen once or repeatedly.

Abuse can happen anywhere at any time and can be caused by anyone including a relative or partner, a friend or neighbour, a paid or volunteer carer, other service users, a person in a position of trust, or a stranger.

Different kinds of abuse

Abuse can take many forms. It might include:

Physical abuse such as being hit, kicked, use of inappropriate restraint, or incorrect moving and handling techniques.

Sexual abuse such as being made to take part in a sexual activity to which the adult has not consented, or exposed to inappropriate sexual remarks.

Psychological abuse such as being shouted at, ridiculed or bullied, as well as being made to feel afraid.

Financial / Material abuse for example theft, fraud, scams, misuse of a person's finances, pressure to change will.

Neglect involves failure to provide care or support that results in someone being harmed.

Discriminatory abuse involves treatment or harassment based on age, gender, sexuality, disability, race or religious belief.

Modern slavery includes human trafficking and forced labour.

Disability Hate Crime is where the person is targeted because of their disability

Spiritual Abuse occurs when a person's religious beliefs are used to manipulate them. If these forms of abuse are caused by an organisation it is sometimes called **organisational abuse**. This is where the needs of the organisation are put before the needs of the individual.

When abuse occurs between partners or by a family member, it is often called **domestic abuse or violence**. This can include so-called **honour based violence, forced marriage** or female genital mutilation (FGM)

Who may be at risk of abuse?

Some adults may be more at risk of harm than others, including people who:

- Depend on others for care due to age or illness
- Suffer from mental ill health
- Have a learning or physical disability
- Have sight or hearing impairment or loss
- Have dementia

If these people are at risk of or experiencing abuse or neglect and are unable to protect themselves then they are vulnerable adults.

Some possible signs of potential abuse:

- Unexplained bruises, marks or injuries
- Changes in behaviour such as withdrawn, angry or scared
- Changes in appearance such as being shabby or unkempt
- Shortage of money for no apparent reason
- Tearful and crying for no apparent reason and not saying why.
- A carer who is unwilling to let other people have contact with this person.