

# Safeguarding adults

## Information for patients, families and carers

### What is safeguarding adults?

Safeguarding adults means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from **abuse** and **neglect** and helping the person to get the help needed to keep safe. Abuse and neglect may be physical or non-physical and can include

- Hitting, slapping or punching
- Sexual acts where you have not given consent
- Psychological - including threats, intimidation, humiliation
- Domestic abuse including forced marriage, honour based violence and female genital mutilation
- Financial - including theft, deception and withholding what belongs to you
- Neglect - including being left without food, heating or personal care
- Discrimination (including hate crime) being treated unfairly because of your gender, race, culture, background, age disability, sexuality or illness
- Modern slavery - human trafficking, forced labour, domestic servitude
- Self-neglect - not looking after your own personal needs, health and surroundings
- Neglect and poor care practice provided in a care home, hospital or own home.

The person doing this may be

- Someone in the family
- A paid or volunteer carer
- A professional person
- Someone else who is receiving care
- Someone not known to you.

### What you/your family/carer can do

If you are worried that abuse and/or neglect may be happening, please talk to a member of staff on the ward or in the department.

### What we will do

We will make sure that you can talk to us privately. We will listen carefully to your worries and what you want to happen. We will explain what we can do and how other professionals may be able to help you. Your information will be confidential. We will ask you first, if we need to or have to, share any information.

The staff can call the Safeguarding Adults Lead or Learning Disabilities Lead, for advice.

We may suggest that a Social Worker talks to you. We can do this by contacting them directly or we may discuss making a safeguarding referral to Adult Care (social services).

A safeguarding referral means that your worries are looked at in more detail. Adult Care will work with you to plan how best to protect you, stop the abuse and keep you safe in the future.

If a crime has been committed or public safety is at risk, we have a professional and legal duty to act. If we think this may be necessary we will explain to you what we need to do and why.

Reference: Adults at Risk Derbyshire County Council  
[http://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/what\\_we\\_do/safeguarding\\_adults/default.asp](http://www.saferderbyshire.gov.uk/what_we_do/safeguarding_adults/default.asp)



Think Safeguarding  
Think Family

**Safeguarding Adults**  
 Version 2  
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