

1 Background

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

Abuse may be deliberate, or may be the result of ignorance or lack of training and can happen once or repeatedly.

2 Why reporting abuse or neglect matters

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 and dignity.

3 Information

Some adults may be at more risk of harm than others, including people who depend on others for care, because of age or illness, suffer from mental ill health, have learning or physical disabilities, have sight or hearing impairment or loss, have dementia or misuse drugs or alcohol.

7 What to do

Contact:

0300 303 8886 (Office hours)
0300 303 8875 (Other times)

social.services@rochdale.gov.uk

safeguarding4rochdale.com



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Abuse can take many forms:

Physical: Hitting, smacking, pushing, shaking, or misuse of medication.

Sexual: Any sexual activity that is unwanted or not understood.

Emotional: Intimidation, threats, humiliation, isolation, verbal or psychological abuse

Neglect: Ignoring medical/ physical care needs, withholding food, heating, medication

Discriminatory: Being treated differently because of ethnicity, sexuality, gender, age or disability.

Financial or material: Theft or misuse of money, property or personal belongings, taken without consent or under pressure

Domestic: May include any of the above, including undermining of self-confidence by a person who is, or has been, in a close relationship.

Institutional: Poor working practices in care homes or hospitals that cause poor or inadequate care.

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Questions to consider

If you are in any doubt about reporting your concerns don't think "What if I'm wrong?" think "What if I'm right?"

If you or an adult you know is in immediate danger contact 999 or call 101 if you think a crime has been committed.

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Who can abuse?

Anyone can be an abuser - a relative, friend or neighbour, a paid or volunteer carer, professional worker or another vulnerable person. Abuse can happen anywhere - in the person's own home, in a care home, in hospital or in a public place.