

## **An Introduction to Safeguarding Children & Adults in Solihull**

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## Introduction

Safeguarding children and adults from abuse is everybody's business. We all share a responsibility to ensure that every person in society is treated with dignity and respect and protected from others who may abuse them.

Safeguarding is an umbrella word used to capture notions of both promoting welfare and protecting from harm. Safeguarding is a continuum of responses that seek to prevent or respond to abuse and neglect.

## What is Abuse?

Abuse is a form of maltreatment. Somebody may abuse or neglect another by inflicting harm, distress or by failing to act to prevent harm. Abuse can be through physical or emotional harm. Abuse can occur in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others (including via the internet). They may be abused by an adult or adults, or child or children. Both males and females can be victims of abuse and can perpetrate the abuse of others.

## Types of Abuse

### Physical Abuse

#### For Children

A form of abuse which may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.

All children have accidents, trips and falls. Bumps and bruises don't always mean a child is being physically abused, but it's important to be aware of the signs. If a child has regular injuries, there seems to be a pattern to the injuries or the explanation doesn't match the injuries, then this should be reported.

Signs of Physical abuse:

**Bruising** which might be indicative of non-accidental injury:

- bruises on the head - but also on the ear or neck or soft tissue areas - the abdomen, back and buttocks, defensive wounds on the forearm, upper arm, back of the leg, hands, or feet
- clusters of bruises on the upper arm, outside of the thigh or on the body (grip marks)
- bruises with dots of blood under the skin (petechial bruises)
- a bruised scalp and swollen eyes from hair being pulled violently

- bruises in the shape of a hand or object

**Burns and scalds** can result from hot liquids, hot objects, flames, chemicals, or electricity and may be accidental or indicative of abuse:

Burns which might be indicative of non-accidental injury include:

- burns on the hands, back, shoulders or buttocks; scalds may be on lower limbs, both arms and/or both legs
- burns in areas of the body which are usually protected and therefore difficult to injure e.g., inner thigh or under arm
- a clear edge to the burn or scald suggests an immersion injury, which in the absence of a satisfactory history may suggest abuse
- sometimes in the shape of an implement, for example an iron or electric heater
- circular cigarette burns
- multiple burns or scalds

**Bite marks** should always be considered within the context of physical abuse.

They are:

- usually oval or circular in shape
- visible wounds, indentations or bruising from individual teeth

**Fractures or broken bones** may be accidental or indicative of abuse, however fractures which might be indicative of abuse, especially in children under 18 months, include:

- fractures to the ribs or the leg bones in babies
- multiple fractures or breaks at different stages of healing

**Other injuries and health problems** which may be indicative of physical abuse include:

- scarring
- effects of poisoning such as vomiting, drowsiness or seizures
- respiratory problems from drowning, suffocation, or poisoning
- torn frenulum of the mouth – these are the small folds of tissue under the tongue, inside the upper lip, inside the lower lip, and connecting the cheeks to the gum.

Babies are particularly vulnerable, and head injuries are possible, so it is important to be aware of these visible signs of abuse:

- Swelling
- Bruising\*
- Fractures
- Being extremely sleepy or unconscious
- Breathing problems

- Seizures
- Vomiting
- Unusual behaviour, such as being irritable or not feeding properly

*\*Bruising in non-mobile babies and children is unusual and is highly suggestive of non-accidental injury. Learning from serious incidents and case reviews has evidenced that professionals can underestimate the significance of the presence of bruising or minor injuries in children who are not independently mobile, thus missing the fact that a minor injury can be an indicator or precursor to a more significant injury or even death of a child. Early recognition and action in such cases is key to preventing further, and potentially more serious, injuries.*

[2.28 Physical abuse | West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group \(procedures.org.uk\)](https://procedures.org.uk)

## For Adults

Physical abuse includes assault, hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, being locked in a room, inappropriate sanctions or force-feeding, inappropriate methods of restraint, and unlawfully depriving a person of their liberty.

Signs of physical abuse include:

- No explanation for injuries or inconsistency with the account of what happened
- Injuries are inconsistent with the person's lifestyle
- Bruising, cuts, welts, burns and/or marks on the body or loss of hair in clumps
- Frequent injuries
- Unexplained falls
- Subdued or changed behaviour in the presence of a particular person
- Signs of malnutrition
- Failure to seek medical treatment or frequent changes of GP

[West Midlands Adult Safeguarding Policies & Procedures \(safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)

[Types of Abuse: Safeguarding Adults \(scie.org.uk\)](https://scie.org.uk)

## Emotional / Psychological Abuse

### For Children

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only

insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

As children grow up their emotions change, this means it can be difficult to tell if they're being emotionally abused. Children who are being emotionally abused may;

- Seem unconfident or lack self-esteem
- Struggle to control their emotions
- Have difficulty maintaining relationships
- Act in a way that's inappropriate for their age.

The signs of emotional abuse can also be different at different ages: Babies and preschool children who are being emotionally abuse may;

- Be overly affectionate to strangers or people they don't know well
- Seem unconfident, wary or anxious
- Not have a close relationship or bond with their parent
- Be aggressive or cruel towards other children or animals

Older children may:

- Use language you wouldn't expect them to know for their age
- Act in a way or know about things you wouldn't expect them to know for their age
- Struggle to control their emotions
- Have extreme outbursts
- Seem isolated from their parents
- Lack social skills
- Have few or no friends

[What Is Emotional Abuse & Things You Should Know | NSPCC](#)

## For Adults

Psychological abuse includes 'emotional abuse' and takes the form of threat of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, rejection, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, indifference, harassment, verbal abuse

(including shouting or swearing), cyber bullying, isolation or withdrawal from services or support networks.

Psychological abuse is the denial of a person's human and civil right including choice and opinion, privacy and dignity and being able to follow one's own spiritual and cultural beliefs or sexual orientation. It includes preventing the adult from using services that would otherwise support them and enhance their lives. It also includes the intentional and/or unintentional withholding of information (e.g. information not being available in different formats/ languages etc.).

Signs of psychological abuse include:

- An air of silence when a particular person is present
- Withdrawal or change in the psychological state of the person
- Insomnia
- Low self-esteem
- Uncooperative and aggressive behaviour
- A change of appetite, weight loss/gain
- Signs of distress: tearfulness, anger
- Apparent false claims, by someone involved with the person, to attract unnecessary treatment

[West Midlands Adult Safeguarding Policies & Procedures \(safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk\)](http://safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)

[Types of Abuse: Safeguarding Adults \(scie.org.uk\)](http://scie.org.uk)

## Sexual Abuse

### For Children

Involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example, rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

Knowing the signs of sexual [abuse](#) can help give a voice to children. Sometimes children won't understand what is happening is wrong, or they may be scared to speak out. Some of the sign's professionals may notice in children include:

- Avoiding being alone or frightened of people or a person they know

- Language or sexual behaviour you wouldn't expect them to know, is not age appropriate
- Having nightmares
- Bed wetting and or smearing faeces
- Alcohol or drug misuse
- Self-harm
- Changes in eating habits or developing an eating problem
- Changes in mood, feeling irritable and angry, or anything out of the ordinary
- Bruises
- Bleeding, discharge, pains or soreness in genital or anal area
- Sexually transmitted infections
- Pregnancy

If a child is being sexually abused online, they may:

- Spend a lot more or a lot less time than usual, texting, gaming or using social media
- Seem distant, upset or angry after using the internet or texting
- Be secretive about who they're talking to and what they're doing online or on their mobile phone
- Have lots of new phone numbers, texts, email addresses on their devices
- Make travel arrangements - to meet someone- go missing from where they should normally be

[2.29 Sexual abuse | West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group \(procedures.org.uk\)](https://procedures.org.uk)

## For Adults

Sexual abuse including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

It includes penetration of any sort, incest and situations where the person causing harm touches the abused person's body (e.g., breasts, buttocks, genital area), exposes his or her genitals (possibly encouraging the abused person to touch them) or coerces the abused person into participating in or looking at pornographic videos or photographs. Denial of a sexual life to consenting adults is also considered abusive practice.

Any sexual relationship that develops between adults where one is in a position of trust, power or authority in relation to the other (e.g., day centre worker/social worker/residential worker/health worker etc.) may also constitute sexual abuse (see section on position of trust).

Signs of sexual abuse include:

- Bruising, particularly to the thighs, buttocks and upper arms and marks on the neck
- Torn, stained or bloody underclothing
- Bleeding, pain or itching in the genital area
- Unusual difficulty in walking or sitting
- Foreign bodies in genital or rectal openings
- Infections, unexplained genital discharge, or sexually transmitted diseases
- Pregnancy in a woman who is unable to consent to sexual intercourse
- The uncharacteristic use of explicit sexual language or significant changes in sexual behaviour or attitude
- Incontinence not related to any medical diagnosis
- Self-harming
- Poor concentration, withdrawal, sleep disturbance
- Excessive fear/apprehension of, or withdrawal from, relationships
- Fear of receiving help with personal care
- Reluctance to be alone with a particular person

[West Midlands Adult Safeguarding Policies & Procedures \(safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk\)](http://safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)

[Types of Abuse: Safeguarding Adults \(scie.org.uk\)](http://scie.org.uk)

## Neglect

### For Children

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse.

Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers);  
or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

Neglect is usually – but not always - something that is persistent, cumulative and occurs over time. It can continue without a critical event, or incidents may be widely spaced, but its effects are corrosive to children's development. Its presentation as a "chronic condition" requires the collation and analysis of



sometimes small and seemingly insignificant events that only when viewed together provide evidence that neglect is an issue of concern.

Types of Neglect include:

- Medical – minimising or denying illness or health needs of children; failure to seek medical attention or administer treatments.
- Nutritional – not providing adequate calories for normal growth (possibly leading to failure to thrive); not providing sufficient food of reasonable quality; recently there have been discussions about obesity being considered a form of neglect.
- Emotional – unresponsive to a child's basic emotional needs; failure to interact or provide affection; failure to develop child's self-esteem or sense of identity.
- Educational – failure to provide a stimulating environment; failure to show interest in education or support learning; failure to respond to any special needs related to learning; failure to comply with statutory requirements regarding attendance.
- Physical – failure to provide appropriate clothing, food, cleanliness, living conditions.
- Lack of supervision and guidance – failure to provide for a child's safety, including leaving a child alone; leaving a child with inappropriate carers; failure to provide appropriate boundaries

## For Adults

These include ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, and the withholding of the necessities of life such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating. Neglect also includes a failure to intervene in situations that are dangerous to the person concerned or to others, particularly when the person lacks the mental capacity to assess risk for themselves. Neglect and poor professional practice may take the form of isolated incidents or pervasive ill treatment and gross misconduct. Neglect of this type may happen within an adult's own home or in an institution. Repeated instances of poor care may be an indication of more serious problems. Neglect can be intentional or unintentional.

Signs of neglect and acts of omission include:

- Poor environment – dirty or unhygienic
- Poor physical condition and/or personal hygiene
- Pressure sores or ulcers
- Malnutrition or unexplained weight loss
- Untreated injuries and medical problems
- Inconsistent or reluctant contact with medical and social care organisations
- Accumulation of untaken medication
- Uncharacteristic failure to engage in social interaction
- Inappropriate or inadequate clothing

**Self-Neglect:** Self-neglect covers a wide range of behaviours, neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding. Self-neglect it is also defined as the inability (intentional or non-intentional) to maintain a socially and culturally accepted standard of self-care with the potential for serious consequences to the health and well-being of the individual and sometimes to their community.

Signs of self-neglect include:

- Very poor personal hygiene
- Unkempt appearance
- Lack of essential food, clothing or shelter
- Malnutrition and/or dehydration
- Living in squalid or unsanitary conditions
- Neglecting household maintenance
- Hoarding
- Collecting a large number of animals in inappropriate conditions
- Non-compliance with health or care services
- Inability or unwillingness to take medication or treat illness or injury

[West Midlands Self Neglect Guidance \(safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)

[West Midlands Adult Safeguarding Policies & Procedures \(safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)

[Types of Abuse: Safeguarding Adults \(scie.org.uk\)](https://scie.org.uk)

## Organisational Abuse

Including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital, residential education provision or care home, or where care is provided within their own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

Organisational abuse is the mistreatment, abuse or neglect of an adult or a child by a regime or individuals in a setting or service where the adult lives or that they use. Such abuse violates the person's dignity and represents a lack of respect for their human rights.

Organisational abuse occurs when the routines, systems and regimes of an institution result in poor or inadequate standards of care and poor practice which affect the whole setting and deny, restrict or curtail the dignity, privacy, choice, independence, or fulfilment of a person with care and support needs.

## For Children

[1.14 Allegations against Staff or Volunteers | West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group \(procedures.org.uk\)](#)

[1.15 Organised and Complex Abuse | West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group \(procedures.org.uk\)](#)

## For Adults

Organisational abuse can occur in any setting providing health or social care. A number of inquiries into care in residential settings have highlighted that organisational abuse is most likely to occur when staff:

- receive little support from management;
- are inadequately trained;
- are poorly supervised and poorly supported in their work;
- receive inadequate guidance; or where there is:
- Unnecessary or inappropriate rules and regulations;
- Lack of stimulation or the development of individual interests;
- Inappropriate staff behaviour, such as the development of factions, misuse of drugs or alcohol, failure to respond to leadership;
- Restriction of external contacts or opportunities to socialise

Signs of organisational or institutional abuse include:

- Lack of flexibility and choice for people using the service
- Inadequate staffing levels
- People being hungry or dehydrated
- Poor standards of care
- Lack of personal clothing and possessions and communal use of personal items
- Lack of adequate procedures
- Poor record-keeping and missing documents
- Absence of visitors
- Few social, recreational and educational activities
- Public discussion of personal matters
- Unnecessary exposure during bathing or using the toilet
- Absence of individual care plans
- Lack of management overview and support

[West Midlands Adult Safeguarding Policies & Procedures \(safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk\)](#)

[Types of Abuse: Safeguarding Adults \(scie.org.uk\)](#)

## Domestic Abuse

### Definition of domestic abuse

Behaviour of a person (“A”) towards another person (“B”) is “domestic abuse” if—

- (a) A and B are each aged 16 or over and are personally connected to each other, and
- (b) the behaviour is abusive.

Behaviour is “abusive” if it consists of any of the following—

- (a) physical or sexual abuse;
- (b) violent or threatening behaviour;
- (c) controlling or coercive behaviour;
- (d) economic abuse (see subsection (4));
- (e) psychological, emotional or other abuse;

and it does not matter whether the behaviour consists of a single incident or a course of conduct.

“Economic abuse” means any behaviour that has a substantial adverse effect on B’s ability to—

- (a) acquire, use or maintain money or other property, or
- (b) obtain goods or services.

For the purposes of this Act A’s behaviour may be behaviour “towards” B despite the fact that it consists of conduct directed at another person (for example, B’s child).

For the purposes of this Act, two people are “personally connected” to each other if any of the following applies—

- (a) they are, or have been, married to each other;
- (b) they are, or have been, civil partners of each other;
- (c) they have agreed to marry one another (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- (d) they have entered into a civil partnership agreement (whether or not the agreement has been terminated);
- (e) they are, or have been, in an intimate personal relationship with each other;
- (f) they each have, or there has been a time when they each have had, a parental relationship in relation to the same child (see subsection (2));
- (g) they are relatives.

For the purposes of subsection (1)(f) a person has a parental relationship in relation to a child if—

- (a) the person is a parent of the child, or
- (b) the person has parental responsibility for the child.

In this section—

- “child” means a person under the age of 18 years;

- “civil partnership agreement” has the meaning given by section 73 of the Civil Partnership Act 2004;
- “parental responsibility” has the same meaning as in the Children Act 1989 (see section 3 of that Act);
- “relative” has the meaning given by section 63(1) of the Family Law Act 1996.

Signs and indicators:

- Control of time and movement within and outside of the home
- Deprivation of resources and imprisonment
- Isolation from the outside world

## For Children

[2.24 Domestic Violence and Abuse | West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group \(procedures.org.uk\)](https://procedures.org.uk)

## For Adults

Signs of domestic violence or abuse include:

- Low self-esteem
- Feeling that the abuse is their fault when it is not
- Physical evidence of violence such as bruising, cuts, broken bones
- Verbal abuse and humiliation in front of others
- Fear of outside intervention
- Damage to home or property
- Isolation – not seeing friends and family
- Limited access to money

Domestic violence and abuse includes any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are personally connected to each other. It also includes so called 'honour' -based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.

Coercive or controlling behaviour is a core part of domestic violence. Coercive behaviour can include:

- acts of assault, threats, humiliation, and intimidation
- harming, punishing, or frightening the person
- isolating the person from sources of support
- exploitation of resources or money
- preventing the person from escaping buse
- regulating everyday behaviour.

[West Midlands Adult Safeguarding Policies & Procedures \(safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)

[Types of Abuse: Safeguarding Adults \(scie.org.uk\)](https://scie.org.uk)

## Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)

Female Genital Mutilation is defined by the World Health Organisation as procedures that include the partial or total removal of the external female genital organs for cultural or other non-therapeutic reasons. It is illegal in the UK to subject a girl or a woman to FGM, or to assist a non-UK person in carrying out FGM overseas (FGM act 2003). Young females under the age of 16 are at highest risk of FGM. The practice has roots in complex belief systems. It is practised by specific ethnic groups in all parts of the world however it is not related to any religion or culture.

Indications that FGM may be about to take place include:

- Potential risk factors may include:
- a female child is born to a woman who has undergone FGM;
- a female child has an older sibling or cousin who has undergone FGM;
- a female child's father comes from a community known to practise FGM;
- the family indicate that there are strong levels of influence held by elders and/or elders are involved in bringing up female children;
- a woman/family believe FGM is integral to cultural or religious identity;
- a girl/family has limited level of integration within UK community;
- parents have limited access to information about FGM and do not know about the harmful effects of FGM or UK law;
- a girl confides to a professional that she is to have a 'special procedure' or to attend a special occasion to 'become a woman';
- a girl talks about a long holiday to her country of origin or another country where the practice is prevalent (see Section 2.3 for the nationalities that traditionally practise FGM);
- parents state that they or a relative will take the girl out of the country for a prolonged period;
- a parent or family member expresses concern that FGM may be carried out on the girl;
- a family is not engaging with professionals (health, education or other);
- a family is already known to social care in relation to other safeguarding issues;
- a girl requests help from a teacher or another adult because she is aware or suspects that she is at immediate risk of FGM;
- a girl talks about FGM in conversation, for example, a girl may tell other children about it (see Annex G for commonly used terms in different languages) – it is important to take into account the context of the discussion;
- a girl from a practising community is withdrawn from Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) education or its equivalent;
- a girl is unexpectedly absent from school;
- sections are missing from a girl's red book; and/or
- a girl has attended a travel clinic or equivalent for vaccinations / anti-malarials.

Indication that FGM may have already taken place include:

- A child may spend long periods of time away from the classroom during the day with bladder or menstrual problems/has frequent days off from school with urinary tract infections.
- There may be prolonged absences from school.
- A prolonged absence from school with noticeable behaviour changes on the girl's return could be an indication that a girl has recently undergone FGM.
- Professionals also need to be vigilant to the emotional and psychological needs of children who may/are suffering the adverse consequences of the practice, e.g., withdrawal, depression.
- A child may confide in a professional.
- A mother/family member discloses that female child has had FGM;
- A family/child is already known to social services in relation to other safeguarding issues;
- A professional overhears a conversation amongst children about a special procedure that took place, whilst on holiday.
- A child requiring to be excused from physical exercise lessons without support of her GP.
- A child may ask for help.
- A child has returned from a holiday with fractured/bruised limbs.
- A child has difficulty walking, sitting or standing and may appear to be uncomfortable.
- A child finds it hard to sit still for long periods of time, and this was not a problem previously;
- A child spends longer than normal in the bathroom or toilet due to difficulties urinating;
- Recurrent UTI (urinary tract infection) or complaints of abdominal pain.
- A girl asks for help, but is not explicit about the problem;
- A girl talks about pain or discomfort between her legs, and/or
- A girl is reluctant to undergo any medical examinations;

[FGM E-Learning \(fgmelearning.co.uk\)](http://fgmelearning.co.uk)

## For Children

[2.21 Female Genital Mutilation | West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group \(procedures.org.uk\)](http://procedures.org.uk)

## For Adults

[West Midlands Adult Safeguarding Policies & Procedures \(safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk\)](http://safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)

## Forced Marriage and Honour Based Violence

In forced marriage, one or both spouses do not consent to the marriage and some element of duress is involved. Duress includes both physical and emotional pressure and abuse.

[Awareness of Forced Marriage E-Learning \(hscvooc.vctms.co.uk\)](https://hscvooc.vctms.co.uk)

'Honour' based violence (HBV) occurs when perpetrators believe a relative or other individual has shamed or damaged a family's or community's 'honour' or reputation (known in some communities as izzat), and that the only way to redeem the damaged 'honour' is to punish and/or kill the individual. 'Honour' based violence is a term that is widely used to describe this sort of abuse however it is often referred to as so called 'honour' based violence because the concept of 'honour' is used by perpetrators to make excuses for their abuse. There is a very strong link between 'honour' based violence, forced marriage and domestic abuse.

Indicators of honour based [abuse](#) can include:

- Broken communication between a potential victim and friends
- Absence from education (or training/workplace)
- Criticism of a potential victim for 'western' adoption of dress or make-up (either directly or indirectly)
- Excessive restrictions in leaving the house or being accompanied outside the home in older children
- Depressive or suicidal tendencies in an otherwise happy child or young person.

[Honour Based Violence \(hbv-awareness.com\)](https://hbv-awareness.com)

### For Children

[2.23 Honour-Based Abuse | West Midlands Safeguarding Children Group \(procedures.org.uk\)](https://procedures.org.uk)

### For Adults

[West Midlands Adult Safeguarding Policies & Procedures \(safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)



## Exploitation

### West Midlands (Metropolitan) Area Definition for Exploitation (All Age)

An individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child, young person or adult and exploits them:

- a) through violence or the threat of violence, and/or
- b) for financial or other advantage of the perpetrator or facilitator and/or
- c) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants.

The victim may have been exploited even if the activity appears consensual. Exploitation does not always involve physical contact, it can also occur through the use of technology.

Solihull recognises that exploitation is deliberate maltreatment and manipulation irrespective of their age, gender, ethnicity, background or ability and sexuality and comes in many forms including:

- Modern Slavery
- Human Trafficking
- Sexual Exploitation
- Criminal Exploitation

Signs and indicators of exploitation include:

- Unexplained money or gifts
- going missing (for short or long periods from home or care)
- Being distressed or withdrawn on return
- Disengaging from existing social networks
- Secrecy around new associations
- Additional mobile phones or concerning use of technology
- Sexual health problems
- Disclosure of rape/sexual assault (and reluctance to report)
- Changes in temperament/  
• emotional wellbeing
- Drug or alcohol misuse
- Secretiveness
- Unexplained physical injuries
- Involvement in offending
- Absent from education/ employment
- Change in physical appearance
- Evidence of sexual bullying and/or vulnerability through the internet and/or social networking sites
- Estranged from their family
- Recruiting others into exploitative situations
- Poor mental health
- Self-harm

- Thoughts of or attempts at suicide

These signs and indicators may not always be present or they can sometimes be mistaken for 'normal adolescent behaviour'. It is therefore always important to have professional curiosity in discussions with children, young people and adults to ensure correct interpretation of what is presented, so appropriate support can be given.

[Solihull Exploitation Tools and Pathways \(procedures.org.uk\)](https://procedures.org.uk)

[A Typology of Modern Slavery Offences in the UK \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk)

## Financial or Material Abuse

This includes theft, fraud, internet scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits. There may also need to be consideration given to if this is a form of domestic abuse or as exploitation

Signs of financial or material abuse include:

- Missing personal possessions
- Unexplained lack of money or inability to maintain lifestyle
- Unexplained withdrawal of funds from accounts
- Power of attorney or lasting power of attorney (LPA) being obtained after the person has ceased to have mental capacity
- Failure to register an LPA after the person has ceased to have mental capacity to manage their finances, so that it appears that they are continuing to do so
- The person allocated to manage financial affairs is evasive or uncooperative
- The family or others show unusual interest in the assets of the person
- Signs of financial hardship in cases where the person's financial affairs are being managed by a court appointed deputy, attorney or LPA
- Recent changes in deeds or title to property
- Rent arrears and eviction notices
- A lack of clear financial accounts held by a care home or service
- Failure to provide receipts for shopping or other financial transactions carried out on behalf of the person
- Disparity between the person's living conditions and their financial resources, e.g., insufficient food in the house
- Unnecessary property repairs

[West Midlands Adult Safeguarding Policies & Procedures \(safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)

[Types of Abuse: Safeguarding Adults \(scie.org.uk\)](https://scie.org.uk)

[Protecting Elderly & Vulnerable People from Scams \(thinkjessica.com\)](https://thinkjessica.com)

[Financial Abuse \(scie.org.uk\)](https://scie.org.uk)

## Discriminatory Abuse

This includes discrimination on the grounds of race, faith, religion, sexual orientation, age and political views, along with racist, sexist, homophobic or ageist comments or jokes, or comments and jokes based on a person's disability or any other form of harassment, slur or similar treatment. Hate crime can be viewed as a form of discriminatory abuse, although will often involve other types of abuse as well. It also includes not responding to dietary needs and not providing appropriate spiritual support. Excluding a person from activities on the basis they are 'not liked' is also discriminatory abuse

Hate crime is any criminal offence that is perceived by the victim or any other person as being motivated by prejudice or hate. It can include threats, physical attack, verbal abuse etc.

Signs of discriminatory abuse include:

- The person appears withdrawn and isolated
- Expressions of anger, frustration, fear or anxiety
- The support on offer does not take account of the person's individual needs in terms of a protected characteristic

[West Midlands Adult Safeguarding Policies & Procedures \(safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk\)](https://safeguardingwarwickshire.co.uk)

[Hate Crime \(solihull.gov.uk\)](https://solihull.gov.uk)

[Types of Abuse: Safeguarding Adults \(scie.org.uk\)](https://scie.org.uk)

## Radicalisation and Extremism

Radicalisation is the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremist ideologies associated with terrorist activity.

Extremism is vocal or active opposition to fundamental British values, including democracy, the rule of law, individual liberty and mutual respect and tolerance of different faiths and beliefs, and calls for the death of members of the official armed forces, whether in this country or overseas. (HM Government 2019 Revised *Prevent Duty Guidance*).

[Revised Prevent Duty Guidance: for England and Wales - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

## Why Don't People Tell?

Abuse in all forms often remains hidden and there are a range of separate and interlinked barriers that prevent those who are being abused from disclosing, which include but are not limited to:

- Shame, embarrassment
- Guilt
- Threatened to keep silent
- Isolated- no-one to tell
- Depend on abuser
- To protect others e.g., siblings, abuser
- Previous attempts at telling were futile
- Communication is difficult (e.g., age, disability, second language)
- Fear of being removed from home; losing family; family break-up; not being believed; getting into trouble or being punished; that loved one's will be hurt or punished.
- Not wanting to be labelled
- Don't know it's wrong
- Not realising or unaware of where to get help

## What to Do / What to Avoid if Someone Does Disclose

Do	Don't
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Be accessible and supportive</li><li>• Listen Carefully</li><li>• Take allegations seriously</li><li>• Reassure the person</li><li>• Speak to your safeguarding lead</li><li>• Record</li><li>• Be aware of your procedure to report</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• React strongly</li><li>• Undermine the person's story</li><li>• Jump to conclusions</li><li>• Speculate</li><li>• Keep it confidential</li><li>• Ask leading questions</li><li>• Make promises you can't keep</li></ul>

## Information Sharing

The Data Protection Act is not a barrier to sharing information.

- Be open and honest from the start with the person/family: seek agreement if safe to do so.
- Seek advice from your safeguarding lead
- Share with consent or without consent if you think it is in the public interest (if someone is or is likely to suffer significant harm)
- Base decisions on the safety and welfare of the person/ others

- Information shared should be necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure.
- Record your decision, reason and what you have shared.

## How to Report Abuse

### For Children

Solihull MBC Childrens Social Care

**Day/Time**

Monday - Thursday 8:45am – 5:20pm

Friday 8:45am – 4:30pm

**Phone**

0121 788 4300

[Multi Agency Referral Form - Childrens Social Care \(solihull.gov.uk\)](https://solihull.gov.uk)

**Out of Hours**

Emergency Duty Team – 0121 605 6060

### For Adults

Solihull MBC Adult Social Care

**Day/Time**

Monday - Thursday 9:00am – 5:00pm

Friday 8:45am – 4:30pm

**Phone**

0121 704 8007

[Report Adult Abuse \(solihull.gov.uk\)](https://solihull.gov.uk)

**Out of Hours**

Emergency Duty Team – 0121 605 6060

## Where to Go for Further Training and Information

[Visit our joint Solihull Safeguarding Adult and Children website \(safeguardingsolihull.org.uk\)](https://safeguardingsolihull.org.uk)