



A Guide to Adult Abuse

No more secrets, please say something – if you are worried about a vulnerable person being abused or neglected by others, please say something. You can report any concerns by calling 0345 678 9005 or go online to www.shropshire.gov.uk and click on the **'Report It'** button on the homepage.

Abuse can happen to adults, particularly when they are vulnerable.

There are different types of abuse and some of them are listed here.

Physical Abuse – being hit or slapped, being given the wrong medication on purpose, being locked in or being force-fed.

Emotional Abuse – being threatened, not being given choices, being bullied, being deliberately left alone for a long time or being tormented.

Financial Abuse – having money or property stolen, being tricked out of benefits, someone borrowing money and not paying it back, being bullied into letting other people use credit cards or cheques.

Neglect – not being given enough to eat or drink, being left in dirty or wet clothes, being given the wrong medication or not being given your medication or someone not calling a doctor or nurse when help is needed.

Sexual Abuse – being touched or kissed when it is not wanted, being made to touch or kiss someone, being raped, or being made to listen to sexual comments.

Discrimination – ignoring religious beliefs, making comments or jokes about a person's disability, race or sexuality, not providing the right food.

Institutional Abuse – repeated instances of poor care, rigid routines to suit staff.

MANY OF THESE EXAMPLES ARE CRIMES

Adults have the right NOT to be abused

It needs to stop NOW

Vulnerable adults who experience abuse may:

- be older and need help from others
- have a learning disability
- be living with physical disabilities
- have mental health needs
- misuse alcohol or drugs

Adults are more at risk of abuse when they:

- need help washing and dressing
- live alone
- find it hard to communicate
- depend on others to look after their money
- do not have someone to speak up for them

Abuse can happen in many different settings:

- in someone's own home
- in a care home
- in a hospital
- in a day centre
- in a public place

Abuse is carried out by many different people but it is usually someone who is known and trusted. It might be:

- a family member or a partner
- a neighbour
- a care worker or volunteer
- a friend

It can be difficult to report abuse.

DON'T think that someone else will report it, they may not and the abuse may continue.

What happens if abuse is reported?

All concerns will be taken seriously and will be discussed with other agencies including the police.

The identity of the person reporting the abuse will be treated as confidential and will only be shared with others if it helps to protect the vulnerable adult or others.

If information needs to be passed on to others expect:

- to be told before the information is shared
- to be kept informed about what is happening

Arrangements will also be made to speak to the vulnerable adult to find out more.

Sometimes a meeting may have to be arranged.

The vulnerable adult may attend the meeting and may wish to bring someone with them.

Other agencies may also be asked to attend.

In some cases the alleged abuser may need to be spoken to.

More meetings may have to be held until the abuse has stopped.

If you are being abused share your concerns with someone who will report it.

This could be:

- doctor or district nurse
- social worker or paid carer
- family member
- police officer or community support officer
- volunteer or advocate

IF YOU ARE WORRIED THAT A VULNERABLE ADULT IS BEING ABUSED, REPORT IT NOW!

Multi Agency Adult Protection Policy 2009

When you report your concerns to us, we will use our Multi-Agency Adult Protection Policy to investigate the situation. The purpose of the Multi-Agency Adult Protection Policy and Procedure is to make clear the roles and responsibilities of staff working with vulnerable adults when abuse is suspected or reported.

A full copy of our Multi-Agency Adult Protection Policy can be found on our website at www.shropshire.gov.uk/adultcarer.nsf under the Adult Protection in Shropshire section.

No More Secrets – Please say something

If you are worried about a vulnerable person being abused or neglected by others, **please say something:**

In an emergency call	999
Non emergency call (Police)	0300 333 3000
Shropshire Council	0345 678 9005
Emergency out of office hours: Shropshire Council Emergency Duty Team	0345 678 9040

You can also report any concerns online:
www.shropshire.gov.uk and click on the
Report It button on the homepage.

Other useful contacts

To find your nearest Social Care team, please call our
Customer Service number: **0345 678 9005**
or email **customer.service@shropshire.gov.uk**

Care Quality Commission **0300 061 6161**

If you can read this but know someone who can't
please contact us on **0345 678 9000** so we can
provide this information in a more suitable format.