



Safeguarding Adults

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Safeguarding Adults

At the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham, we work together with other organisations such as Birmingham Safeguarding Adults Board, the police, and community services to appropriately share information and safeguard adults at risk from abuse.

Who are we worried about?

We are worried about adults at risk of abuse.

An adult at risk:

- Is aged 18 or over
- Has support or care needs which may or may not be being met e.g. has a support worker because they are frail, a learning disability, a physical disability, problems with eyesight or hearing or mental health issues

and

- Because of their care and support needs is not able to take steps to protect themselves from significant harm, neglect, or exploitation

What is safeguarding?

Safeguarding is about making people aware of their rights, to protect them and prevent abuse. We encourage you to report any suspected abuse, no matter when it occurred.

What is abuse?

Abuse is any action which harms another person. It includes:

- Physical abuse such as hitting, burning, poisoning, pushing, kicking, biting or locking someone in their room
- Verbal abuse such as shouting or swearing at someone
- Emotional abuse such as bullying, taunting, threatening or deliberately humiliating someone

- Sexual abuse such as touching inappropriately, forcing someone to take part or witness a sexual act against their will
- Financial abuse such as misusing, keeping or taking someone's money, or their belongings without their consent
- Neglect such as not providing required medicines, food, heating or care
- Discrimination such as ill treatment or harassment based on someone's gender, age, sexual orientation, beliefs, disability or ethnic group
- Harm may be caused to, or by, one person or several
- People may experience more than one type of abuse

Where does abuse happen?

Abuse can happen anywhere and at any time including:

- In the victim's own home
- In the carer's home
- Day centres
- Care homes
- Hospitals
- Work
- Colleges and schools
- Public places

What increases the risk of abuse?

Anyone can be at risk of abuse but the majority of people are not at risk all of the time. The risk of abuse increases when:

- Someone is isolated
- Depending on others for food and personal care

- Recovering from or having an illness
- Not being mentally capable of making a decision for themselves
- Previous abuse

How do we safeguard people?

To ensure we safeguard people we follow a process called 'Making Safeguarding Personal'. This means the process should be person-led and focused on what the person would want by raising a concern to us.

We have conversations with potential victims of abuse and their families if appropriate about how they would like us to respond, to enhance involvement and choice and to achieve the best outcome for the victim.

We see people as experts in their own lives and work with them to ensure their needs are met.

We empower people to be included in any safeguarding decision as much as they are able to ensure they have as much control as is possible over the process.

What should I do if I think I am or someone else is being abused?

If you are worried about someone, speak to a member of the nursing team or call the safeguarding team on 07500 850 633.

Ruth O'Leary – Lead Nurse Safeguarding

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