

Types of Abuse

Abuse

A form of maltreatment of a child or adult at risk. Somebody may well abuse or neglect a child or adult at risk by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children and adults at risk may be abused in a family, or institutional, or community setting, by those known to them, or, more rarely, by others (e.g. via the internet). Abuse can occur by an adult or adults, or a child or children.

Four main categories of abuse are recognised

1. Physical Abuse
2. Emotional abuse
3. Sexual Abuse
4. Neglect

Physical Abuse

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

To read more about physical abuse, please follow this link or go to the NSPCC website.

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/physical-abuse/what-is-physical-abuse/>

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or adult at risk to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child/adult at risk 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/adults at risk in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children/adults at risk to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child/adult at risk in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit act of sexual abuse as can other children.

For more information or if you are worried about a child, please click this link below to read more and for guidance on reporting a confirm:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/preventing-abuse/child-abuse-and-neglect/child-sexual-abuse/>

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child/ adult at risk such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's/adults at risk emotional development. It may involve conveying to children/adult at risk that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving them the 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/adult at risk. These may include interactions that are beyond the individual's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child/adult at risk in participating in normal social interaction. It may also involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children/adults at risk frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children/adults at risk. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child/adults at risk though it may occur alone.

For more information emotional abuse, follow the link below:

<http://www.childline.org.uk/emotionalabuse>

Neglect

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's/adults at risk basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the individuals health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result 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/adult at risk from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers)
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment

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

For more information on neglect, please follow the link below:

<http://www.childline.org.uk/neglect>