

What is abuse?

Below are the most recognised categories of abuse, whether deliberate, through negligence or ignorance:

Sexual abuse

To knowingly cause another person to engage in an unwanted sexual act by force or threat, including prostitution, rape, buggery, oral sex, involving a non consenting person in looking at or in the production of sexual online images and photos, watching sexual activities, or encouraging someone to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

Physical abuse

This may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm

Emotional and Psychological abuse

This may involve persistently conveying that the person is worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person through calling names, threatening, bullying, treating an adult like a child, restricting access to other people, ignoring someone and other actions that aim to cause fear, belittle someone or make someone feel like they are in danger.

Neglect and acts of omission

The persistent failure to meet a person's basic physical and/or psychological needs through a failure to provide food, clothing, shelter, adequate supervision, access to medical care and treatment or to protect a vulnerable person from danger

Financial or material abuse

The misuse of a person's funds and assets including theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse/misappropriation of property, possessions and benefits

Discriminatory abuse

This can include unfair or less favourable treatment due to a person's race, gender, age, disability, religion, sexuality, appearance or cultural background.