

Safeguarding Adults and Children

Understanding Safeguarding and Recognizing Abuse

Immediate Danger

If you think someone is in immediate danger, please call 101 or 999

Safeguarding is in place to protect children and vulnerable adults who are at risk of abuse and neglect. It involves identifying people who may be at risk, taking steps to prevent harm from occurring and responding appropriately when harm has occurred.

Abuse is any form of physical, emotional, or sexual mistreatment or lack of care that leads to injury or harm. There are four types of abuse, and these are:

- **Physical abuse** - deliberately causing physical harm to a child. This might involve punching, kicking, biting, burning, scalding, shaking, throwing, or beating with objects. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of illness in a child.
- **Emotional abuse** - repeated verbal threats, criticism, ridicule, shouting, lack of love and affection causes a severe adverse effect on a child's emotional development. It includes conveying to children that they are worthless, unloved, and inadequate or valued.
- **Sexual abuse** - involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether the child is aware of what is happening. It may involve non-contact activities such as involving children in watching sexual activities, looking at sexual images and encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways. Abusers can be men, women, or other children.
- **Neglect** - a constant failure to meet a child's basic physical and psychological needs, likely to result in a serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect is when a parent or carer fails to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter, medical care, access to education or protection from physical and emotional harm or danger.
- **Domestic abuse** – An incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence, or abuse by someone who is, or has been, an intimate partner or family member.
- **Financial abuse** – Someone stealing money or valuables from you. Or it might be someone appointed to look after your money on your behalf is using it inappropriately or forcing you to spend it in a way you're not happy with. Internet scams and doorstep crime (someone turning up at your door and tricking you out of money) are common forms of financial abuse.

Signs of Child Abuse

- The child acting in a sexual way with toys or object.
- Suddenly having nightmares or other sleeping problems
- Becoming withdrawn or very clingy
- Personality changes or suddenly seeming insecure.

- Regressing to younger behaviours, such as bedwetting
- Unaccountable fear of places or people
- Outbursts of anger
- Changes in eating habits.
- Physical signs, such as unexplained soreness or bruises around private parts
- Becoming secretive
- Having unexplained gifts such as toys, money, mobile phone, expensive clothes.
- Pain, discolouration, bleeding or discharges in genitals, anus, or mouth
- Persistent or recurring pain during urination and bowel movements
- Wetting and soiling accidents unrelated to toilet training

Signs Of Abuse in Older people

- Becoming quiet and withdrawn
- Being aggressive or angry for no obvious reason
- Looking unkempt, dirty, or thinner than usual
- Sudden changes in their character, such as appearing helpless, depressed or tearful.
- Physical signs – such as bruises, wounds, fractures, or untreated injuries
- The same injuries happening more than once.
- Not wanting to be left by themselves or alone with particular people.
- Being unusually light-hearted and insisting there's nothing wrong.
- Their home may be cold or unusually dirty or untidy, or you might notice things missing.
- Sudden change in their finances, such as not having as much money as usual to pay for shopping or regular out goings.

Concerned about a child

If you are concerned that a child has suffered harm, neglect or abuse contact the Early Help and Safeguarding Hub.

If you have concerns about an adult who works with children please report to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) .

Contact details are at the bottom of the page.

Concerned about an adult

If you are concerned that an adult has suffered harm, neglect or abuse contact Adult Social Care Team.

Contact details are at the bottom of the page.

Safeguarding Contacts

Early Help and Safeguarding HUB

If you are concerned that a child has suffered harm, neglect or abuse contact:

ehash@rochdale.gov.uk

tel: : [0300 303 0440](tel:03003030440)

Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO)

If you have concerns about an adult who works with children please report to the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO) .

lado@rochdale.gov.uk

Adult Social Care Team

Adult.care@rochdale.gov.uk

tel: : [0300 303 8886](tel:03003038886)

web: : <https://www.rochdale.gov.uk/adult-social-care>