



# What is Safeguarding?

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## What is Safeguarding?

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## Message from CHANGE

We hope that this document will be used to support people with learning disabilities and other vulnerable adults to help them be aware of how they should and should not be treated.

It is really important that vulnerable adults and not just those who care for them, know about their rights and are empowered to play a key part in plans to stop bullying and abuse.

CHANGE believes that more must be done to place vulnerable adults in a position where they are empowered to **“Say No to Abuse.”**





## Who is a vulnerable adult?

The law says a person is a vulnerable adult if they are over 18 and:



- Live in residential accommodation or sheltered housing
- A person who is or may be unable to take care of him or herself



- A person who is detained in a Police Station or Prison



- A person who needs help in managing his or her daily life and personal affairs



- Has a disability

## What is Safeguarding?



- Has a mental health problem
- Has particular needs because of his or her age
- May find it difficult to protect themselves from harm and neglect

### **Other people can be at risk**

Lots of people with learning disabilities who may live independently or without services can be vulnerable to bullying and abuse as well.



## What is Safeguarding?

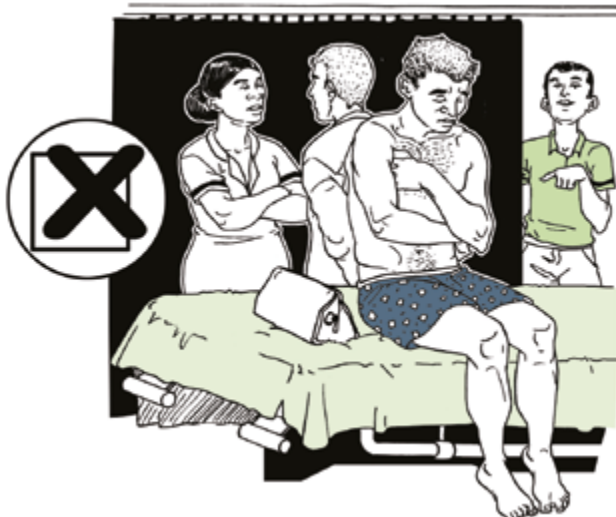
Safeguarding is protecting vulnerable adults or children from abuse or neglect.



It means making sure people are supported and get good access to health care and stay well.



It is wrong if vulnerable people are not treated by professionals with the same respect as other patients.



# What is Safeguarding?



It is making sure that people are supported to have full and happy lives.



It is making sure that people get safe and empowering care.



Safeguarding should make sure that people get the support they need to make the most of their lives and get their full equal rights.





## The Care Act 2014

**The Care Act was passed in 2014**

This law sets out new rules that Local Authorities and other organisations have to follow to protect adults at risk of abuse or neglect.

**Local Authorities must do the following to protect vulnerable adults**

**Lead a multi-agency local safeguarding system-**

This means they must bring together and work with local organisations such as Health and Care and Housing to prevent abuse and neglect and stop it quickly when it happens.



**Make enquiries or get others to make them** - When they think an adult with care and support needs may be at risk of abuse or neglect and find out what needs to happen to make it stop.



**Set up Safeguarding Adults Boards**- The Local Authority, NHS, Police and others must work together to protect people and share information with each other to keep people safe.



**Carry out Safeguarding Adult Reviews** - if a person has been seriously abused or neglected or died as a result the Local Authority must review their case and look at what lessons they can learn and make sure they apply those lessons to future cases.



**Arrange for an Independent Advocate** - all vulnerable adults have the right to support from an advocate to help them have their voice heard.

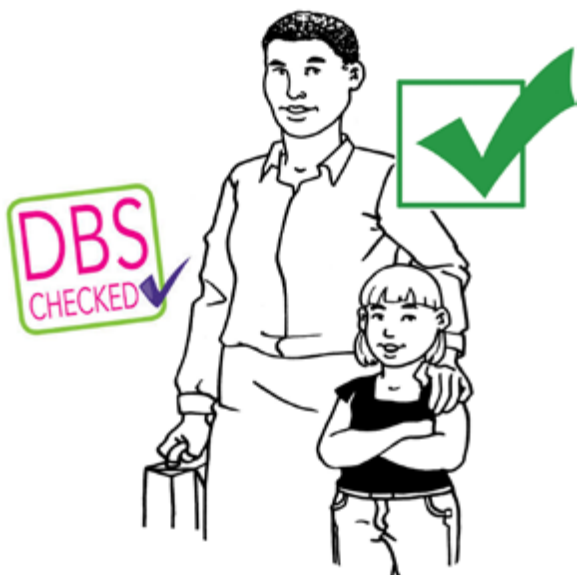


Disclosure & Barring Service

## The Disclosure and Barring Service



In 2013 the **Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS)** was set up to help companies make sure that bad people are not employed to look after vulnerable adults and children.



They carry out a DBS check on anyone who might need to work with vulnerable adults and children to make sure they are safe.

## What is Safeguarding?



A DBS Check might be needed for:

- Certain jobs or voluntary work e.g. working in healthcare or with children



- If someone is applying to adopt or foster a child

## What employers must do

Employers must make sure they do not employ bad staff or volunteers to care for vulnerable adults and children.

When someone wants a job they will ask that person to fill in an application form. This form will be sent to DBS along with proof of who they are.

The DBS will check the person then send a certificate to say that the person is safe to work with vulnerable adults and children.



## What is Safeguarding?



If a person is not safe, their name will be put on the DBS Barred List to make sure that they are not allowed to work with vulnerable adults or children.

If an organisation has sacked or planned to sack a member of staff or volunteer who has left because they have harmed a child or vulnerable adult, they must tell the Disclosure Barring Service.



## What is Abuse?

Abuse is when someone bullies you and does or says something to you that makes you hurt, upset or frightened.





You may be scared to speak out or to stop them. The person who is bullying you may make it hard for you to report it.

If abuse happens to you or someone you know it is important to speak out and tell someone that you trust. Do this as soon as you can.

### **There are lots of different kinds of abuse:**

- **Physical Abuse** – this is when someone hurts you by hitting you, kicking you or burning you. It may also be when someone holds you down.
- **Sexual Abuse** – this is when someone touches your body and does things to you that you do not like or want them to do.

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Sexual abuse is also when someone makes you do sexual things that you do not want to do.

- **Emotional Abuse** – this can be when people say bad things to you like teasing or threatening or bullying you to upset you.

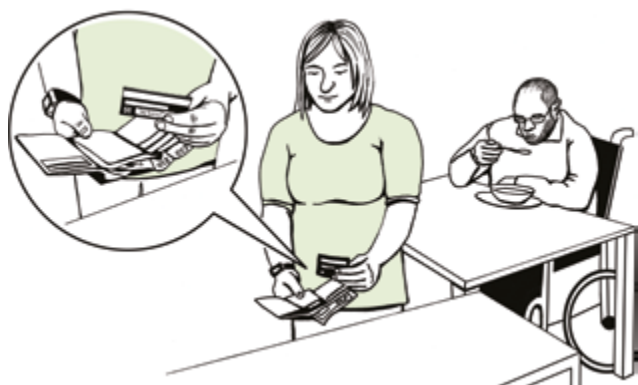
It can also be emotional abuse when people do not listen to you or do not believe what you say.

- **Financial Abuse** – this is when someone takes your money. It is also when you do not have a say in how someone spends your money.





- **Mate Crime or Tricky Friends** - this is when people who you think are your friends take advantage of you. They may get you to pay for everything all of the time.



- **Abuse of things that belong to you** – this is when someone takes your private things without asking you.



- **Abuse of your right to choose** the medical care you get. For example, being given medication against your will.



- **Neglect** – this is when people say they are going to help you but they don't. Neglect could be things like not taking you to the Doctors or not giving you your medicine.

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Neglect could be when someone stops you having a social life.



Neglect could be if someone does not support you to keep clean and comfortable.



Neglect could be if someone stops you having enough food or drink.



Neglect can be when people fail to treat you as an equal by not thinking about your feelings and dignity.



- **Discrimination** – this is when people say bad things to you or treat you unfairly because you are different from them.

You may be made to feel different because you have a different skin colour, follow a different religion, look different or speak a different language.

You may be made to feel different because you are a disabled person.

You may be made to feel different because of your sexuality. For example, being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.

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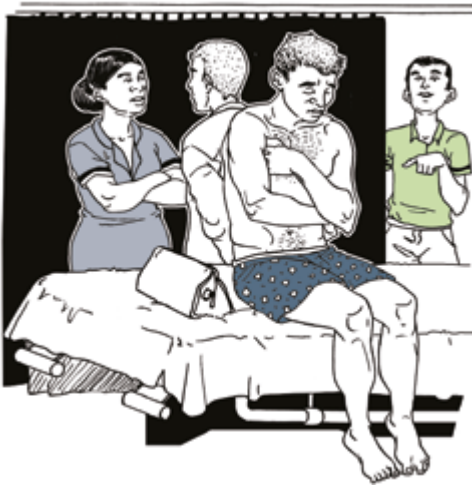


**Abuse can happen anywhere, at any time. It could happen:**

- In your own home or in someone else's home
- At work
- In your care home
- At your Day Centre



- At college



- In hospital



- In the street



## Who could abuse you?

Most people will not abuse you, but anyone could.

## What is Safeguarding?



It might be someone you know or a stranger.



It could be someone in your family or a friend.



It could be someone who works with you, like a social worker or a support worker.



**What should I do if I think I am being abused?**

People who are being abused are often scared to speak up.



It is good if you can tell someone you trust, who may be able to help to make it stop, or find someone who can.



Sometimes the bully can make it hard for you to tell anyone.



They may make you feel scared or guilty and stop you being able to tell anyone.



**Abuse is not your fault.  
You have a right to have a  
safe life without being bullied  
or abused.**

# What is Safeguarding?



There are lots of people that you could tell if you feel you are being abused or bullied.

**In an emergency you could call the police.**

It is a good idea to take some time to think about who you think you could tell. Write their names and contacts below:

**A relative or friend you trust:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_





**A member of staff you trust:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**A Social Worker you trust:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Your Doctor:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



**Your Local Safeguarding Board:**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Your Advocate

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Put other useful contacts  
here:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





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