

West Wales Regional Safeguarding Board

Protecting Adults at Risk from Abuse

What you need to know

Fact Sheet 13

(March 2017)

It is not always the case that adults are able to protect and care for themselves. Some adults are particularly vulnerable to abuse and having their human rights routinely disregarded. For some people, abuse is an everyday experience, and it is our intention to challenge and combat this abuse, and promote the rights of adults at risk.

The rights of every individual:

Every individual has a right to:

- A life free from fear
- Be treated with dignity
- Have their choice respected and not be forced to do anything against their will.

Who are adults at risk?

An adult at risk is defined as someone who

- Is experiencing or is at risk of abuse or neglect
- has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs),
- as a result of those needs, is unable to protect himself or herself against the abuse or neglect or the risk of it.



For more information on social care services log onto:
www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/socialcare

What is abuse?

Abuse is when someone is mistreated, harmed or taken advantage of, and can cover:

- Physical abuse – such as hitting, shaking or misusing medication.
- Sexual abuse such as forcing someone into unwanted sexual activity, to which they have not or could not have consented, or to which they were pressurised into consenting.
- Emotional or psychological abuse such as intimidation, humiliation or being prevented from friends or family visiting or from receiving services or support.
- Financial abuse such as stealing someone's money or fraud or exploitation.
- Neglect such as ignoring medical or physical care needs, preventing access to health, social care or educational services, not caring for someone properly.

Where does abuse take place?

Any adult at risk, man or woman, can experience abuse or be at risk of abuse anywhere

What to do?

If **you** are being abused, or are concerned that **someone you know** may be at risk of abuse you should speak to someone about it.

It is everyone's responsibility to play a part in the protection of adults at risk.

Information and advice will be offered so that the person and their family can decide what practical help they need or what action they wish to take. If they are unable to make a decision, care will be taken to support and protect them

What will happen if I report abuse?

If you report any suspected abuse issues, the information provided will be evaluated. Sometimes there may be a need to gather more information. This may involve liaising with several agencies e.g. health services and the police. Support and advice will be provided on any concerns you have raised to ensure that adults at risk of abuse or harm are safeguarded speedily and effectively.

What you tell us will be treated sensitively.

Who to Contact?

If you are being abused, or are concerned that someone you know may be at risk of abuse you should contact:

Information, Advice and Assistance Service on 0300 333 2222
(available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.)

If you or the person being abused is in immediate danger you should telephone the Police on 999.

If you want to discuss a concern you have about an adult at risk you can contact: the Safeguarding Advice Enquiry Service in the following ways:

By phone: 01267 228944

By email: Safeguarding@carmarthenshire.gov.uk

Online at: www.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/Safeguarding

The Safeguarding Team is available from 9am to 5pm Monday to Thursday and 9am to 4.30pm on Fridays.

Other organisations that can offer advice and support:

Women's Aid

Amman Valley
Carmarthen
Llanelli

01269 597474
01267 238410
01554 741212

CALL Helpline (Community Advice & Listening Line) – evenings and weekends only

0800 132737

Shelter Cymru

0845 075 5005

Samaritans

0845 790 9090

Relate

0300 1001234

Age Cymru Sir Gâr

01554 784080

Victim Support

0845 303 0900

Action on Elder Abuse Helpline (AEA)

0808 8088 141

Care & Social Services Inspectorate Wales

0300 7900 126

**If you would like this leaflet in large print,
Braille or on audio,
please  01267 228703**



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