



Safeguarding fact sheet for home-visiting tradespeople

Tradespeople including heating, plumbing /cooling engineers, builders, or painters and decorators can play a vital role in keeping adults and children safe from harm and abuse.

Workers who enter homes to carry out their work, may well be in a position to notice and report signs of neglect, exploitation and abuse, thereby playing an essential role in keeping members of the public safe and secure.

Your information could be the first indication or a missing part of a bigger picture.

Adults or children rarely exist in isolation and the approach of 'Think Family' aims to promote the importance of considering the potential risk or wider implication to the whole-family.

THINK FAMILY



Consider the needs or impact on others, such as wider family who may, or may not live in the same home, children, parents, elderly relatives and carers.

In this newsletter:

Think Family

Who can be at risk?

Types of abuse

Signs to look out for when in the house

What to do if you have a concern

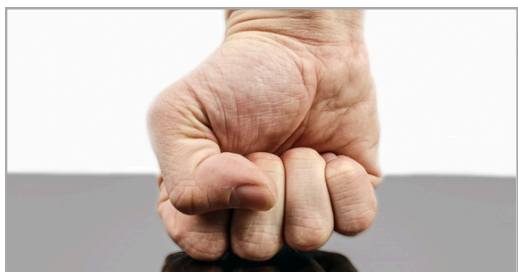
Who to contact if you have a concern



Who can be at risk?

An adult at risk is someone aged 18-years and over who has needs for care and support and is experiencing or is at risk of abuse and/or neglect. A child under the age of 18, a baby or an unborn baby are vulnerable as a result of their age, development and capacity and may suffer significant harm due to abuse, exploitation or neglect.

Safeguarding and types of abuse



Physical Abuse

Causing physical harm such as hitting, slapping, shaking, punching, kicking, scalding, burning, suffocating, drowning, biting, using physical restraints, poisoning or misuse of medication.



Sexual Abuse

Unwanted and non-consensual sexual activity or behaviour which may involve physical or non-contact activities. Involving children in looking at or in the production of sexual images. They may be forced, threatened or taken advantage of. **A child under 13 can never consent to any sexual activity.**



Emotional Abuse

Causing a person to feel unloved, worthless, inadequate or valued in so far as they meet the needs of another person. It can include age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being placed on children.



Neglect

Failing to meet a person's basic needs such as food, clothing, adequate shelter or medical care. Children can also be neglected when there is failure to protect them from harm, provide adequate supervision and suitable education.

Other types of abuse or harm

- Self-Neglect: Behaviours of an adult that threatens the person's health or safety.
- Extra-familial harm: Harm that takes place outside the family home. For example, exploitation which is an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a person into sexual or criminal activity; serious violence and radicalisation (the process by which a person comes to support terrorism and extremism ideologies associated with terrorist groups.) This type of harm can happen online too.
- Modern Slavery: Exploitation of other people for personal or commercial gain.
- Discriminatory: Harmful or unfair treatment based on an individual's characteristics or status e.g., racism, sexism, homophobia and discrimination.
- Financial or Material: Illegal or unauthorised use of a person's property, money or assets including money laundering.
- Institutional or Organisational: Mistreatment of people by poor, inadequate care and support. Systematic poor practice that affects the whole care setting (abusive culture within a care setting).
- Domestic abuse: Includes a wide range of abusive behaviours including controlling, coercive, threatening or violent behaviour or physical, emotional, financial, sexual or psychological abuse between those aged 16-years or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members. Children can be affected by domestic abuse if they see, hear or experience the effects of abuse.

Safeguarding is a shared responsibility

Signs of abuse are not always obvious, and a person may feel scared or unable to say what is happening to them.

Read about some of the signs to look out for on the next page.

Signs to look out for when working in someone's home



Wellbeing and mental health

- Anyone disclosing anything concerning to you. For example, telling you that they or someone else are being abused, scared, or are concerned with their wellbeing.
- Severe mental and or physical health concerns.
- Unexplained bruises or injuries to adults at risk or children. Unusual injuries, including bruises, burns, fractures, bite marks or signs of self-harm.
- Bruises or injuries to non-mobile babies.

Alcohol, drug and substance use

- Drug/alcohol/substance use. Paraphernalia for drug taking. This could increase the risk to others living in the property who may be children or adults at risk.
- The child's physical safety when the parent is under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.



Domestic abuse, and coercive, controlling behaviour

- Adults or children who seem scared or fearful – appearing withdrawn, guarded, anxious or frightened, particularly around certain individuals.
- People being locked in their homes without a key or means of leaving.
- Concerning or challenging behaviour, such as aggression, shouting, anger or hostility.
- Communicating aggressively or using sexual language. Hearing or seeing shouting, violence or intimidation.

What not to do

- Do not investigate any concerns yourself.
- Do not manage challenging situations or other people's anxieties.



Living conditions and environment

- Living in poor conditions such as severe hoarding, lack of hygiene, excess clutter, unsafe environments, drug paraphernalia, unsafe storage of medications or other dangerous items, severe dampness, lack of food, cooking facilities, heating, or adequate sleeping arrangements. Animal faeces or evidence of animal cruelty.
 - Damage to the property eg holes in walls or doors etc.
 - Prevented from accessing care or supported if needed.
 - Being under the influence of drugs or alcohol to an extent it put them or people they are caring for at risk.
 - Lack of supervision with children or adults at risk of harm being left alone for long periods of time without appropriate care arrangements in place.
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What to do if you have a concern



Follow your instincts - even if you are not sure, do not ignore the signs and raise your concerns.

If you have immediate concerns and believe the person needs urgent help, phone the police on 999 and or call for an ambulance.

If the concerns don't need to be dealt with immediately share information and concerns with your Manager, Co-ordinator or Supervisor.

There will be a safeguarding lead for your agency so familiarise yourself with their contact information.

Contact Adult/Children's Services. In some agencies, the safeguarding lead may contact, in others this maybe you. Adult/Children's Services will ask for information including your name, job title and a description of the concerns. You will receive support from your manager if you need to report a concern.

If you feel you can, ensuring there is NO risk of serious danger or harm, to you or the individual, inform the person you will be reporting the concerns you have to Adult/Children's Services.

Who to call if you have a concern

Speak to your Safeguarding Lead Manager or Supervisor.

Report your concerns to social care.



Adults:

Derbyshire on:01629 533190

Children:

Derby: 01332 641172

Derbyshire: 01629 533 190

**Thank you for helping
to keep everyone safe!**

 	Derbyshire Safeguarding Adults Board www.derbyshiresab.org.uk
Derby and Derbyshire Safeguarding Children Partnership	www.ddscp.org.uk