

Safeguarding adults



Everybody has the right to:

- live without fear
- be treated with respect
- make choices that are acted on
- refuse to do things they do not want to do.

Safeguarding means protecting adults to live safely, free from abuse or **neglect**.



Neglect means **not** giving someone the basic things they need to live, such as, food, clothing, housing and care.



Safeguarding adults is people and organisations working together to:



- stop the abuse of adults who cannot protect themselves



- make sure adults who need help get the care and support they need



- make sure what adults think, feel and believe makes them happy and healthy.



The goals of safeguarding adults

- stop abuse or **neglect**
- protect adults and support them to make choices and have control over their lives
- make the quality of life of adults' lives better
- give adults with care and support needs the advice and information they need to stay safe
- make sure more local workers and local groups know about **safeguarding adults** to stop abuse in Southwark.



Safeguarding adults protects people over 18 years old:

- with care and support needs
- who are at risk of abuse or **neglect**
- who cannot protect themselves because they have care and support needs.



Care and support needs

An adult with care and support needs can be:

- an older person
- a person with a physical disability



- a person with a learning disability



- a person with hearing or sight problem



- a person with mental health needs, including dementia and a personality disorder



- a person with a health problem that has lasted for a long time



- a person with a drug or alcohol problem that makes it difficult for them to live a normal life



- people who are victims of **domestic abuse, sexual exploitation, and modern slavery.**



Sexual exploitation happens when someone gets something such as food, drink or cigarettes for taking part in a sexual activity.



Modern slavery affects people:

- who are forced to work for someone else
- from many different backgrounds, including people with learning disabilities.



Abuse and neglect

There are different types of abuse and neglect:



- **psychological abuse** - threats of harm or shouting at someone



- **disability hate crime** – an event that someone thinks has taken place because of their disability



- **discriminatory abuse** – for example, treating someone badly because of their age, sex, race or religion
- **domestic abuse** – when a close member of a family such as a wife or husband is abused
- **female genital mutilation** – when a women's genitals are changed or hurt
- **financial or material abuse** – when someone gets someone else's money or property and they lie to get it
- **human trafficking** and modern slavery - **human trafficking** is the act of supplying people to someone else to make money.
- **neglect**



- **organisational abuse** – when a group of people are abused by an organisation, such as a care home.



- **physical abuse** - hitting or pushing someone



- **restraint** – stopping someone from doing something in an illegal way



- **sexual abuse or exploitation** - sexual acts such as rape, harassment or touching.










Reporting abuse or neglect

Please get in touch if you are worried about an adult being abused or neglected.



You do not need to give your name if you report a **safeguarding** issue.

	<p>If you think the adult is in immediate danger, call 999 first.</p>
  	<p>Adults with a physical disability with a hearing or sight problem, and older people 65 years old and over</p> <p>Email: OPPDContaktteam@southwark.gov.uk</p> <p>Call: 020 7525 3324</p>
  	<p>For adults aged 18 to 65 years old with a mental illness</p> <p>Email: MentalHealthDivisionASC@southwark.gov.uk</p> <p>Call: 020 7525 0088</p>



Adults with a learning disability

Email:

LearningDisabilitiesDuty@southwark.gov.uk

Call: **020 7525 2333**



What happens next?

We will talk to the adult as soon as possible to find out what they would like to happen.

If the adult cannot choose what should happen, a family member, carer or friend can speak up for them.

In some cases, an independent advocate would get involved.

The advocate will speak up for the adult if they cannot speak for themselves.



Go to our [Independent Support](#) page for more information.

We will take steps to protect the adult.

If a crime has taken place, we will contact the Police.

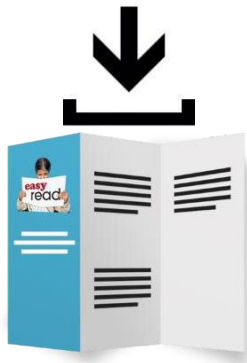
The adult may want the abuser to be arrested.



After looking into the issue, we will agree on a plan to protect and support the adult.



The plan will include what the adult wants to happen such as:



- providing care and support

- helping the adult to end or manage a harmful relationship.

In some cases, the person causing abuse or neglect may need care and support too.

Download copies of our leaflets and poster:

[Stop adult abuse leaflet](#) (pdf, 233kb)

[Stop adult abuse leaflet - easy read version](#)

(pdf, 1.3mb)

[Stop adult abuse posters](#) (pdf,