

Abuse and vulnerable adults

Abuse and neglect can occur anywhere: in your own home or a public place, while you are in hospital or attending a day centre or in a care home. You may be living alone or with others. The person causing the harm may be a stranger to you, but more often than not the person is known, and it can be the case that you usually feel safe with them. They are usually in a position of trust and power, such as a health and care professional, relative or neighbour.

There are many forms of abuse and neglect including:

Physical

This can include being assaulted, hit, slapped, pushed, restrained, being denied food or water, or not being helped to go to the bathroom when you need to go. It can also include misuse of your medication.

Domestic

This is typically 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.

Sexual

This includes indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography and witnessing sexual acts. Any sexual act that you didn't agree to or were pressured into consenting to count as sexual abuse.

Psychological

This includes someone emotionally abusing you or threatening to hurt or abandon you, stopping you from seeing people, and humiliating, blaming, controlling, intimidating or harassing you. It also includes verbal abuse, cyber bullying and isolation, or an unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of support.

Discriminatory

This includes some forms of harassment, slurs or similar unfair treatment relating to race, gender and gender identity, age, disability, sexual orientation, or religion.

Financial

This could be someone stealing money or other valuables from you, or it might be someone who is appointed to look after your money on your behalf using the money inappropriately or coercing you into spending it in a way you are not happy with.

Neglect

Neglect is also a form of abuse. Neglect includes not being provided with enough food or the right kind of food, or not being taken proper care of. Leaving you without help to wash or change dirty or wet clothes, not getting you to a doctor when you need one, or not making sure you have the right medicines all count as neglect.

What will Cottsway do?

This will depend upon the wishes of the person involved and the seriousness of the situation. However we will:

Talk to the victim within 24 hours of the report being received and investigate fully. Consult with others, for example Social Services.

Respect the wishes of the person being abused, the only exceptions being:

- If they or others are in immediate danger
- If they are incapable of making a decision themselves
- If the risk to others needs to be considered
- If a criminal offence has been committed.

How can I get help?

Don't worry about making a fuss, tell someone you trust as soon as possible. Speak to friends or care workers who may be able to take steps quickly to improve the situation. You can also talk to professionals such as your GP, social worker or your local council's Adult Safeguarding team.

You can also speak to one of our Neighbourhood Housing or Community Welfare Officers.

If you feel the problem is very serious and warrants immediate action you should **phone the Police or call your local social services.**

Need further advice?

Action on Elder Abuse

www.elderabuse.org.uk

Phone: 0808 808 8141

Age UK www.ageuk.org.uk

Phone: 0800 169 656

Citizens Advice

www.citizensadvice.org.uk

Self Help site: www.adviceguide.org.uk

Phone: 03444 111 444

www.cottsway.co.uk



Follow us on Twitter@Cottsway



Cottsway House • Heynes Place • Avenue Two • Witney • Oxfordshire OX28 4YG

T: 01993 890000

E: contact@cottsway.co.uk

Cottsway Housing Association is a registered society under the Co-operative and Community Benefit Societies Act 2014.
FCA No 30651R. HCA Reg No L4312.