

What can I do?

Don't ignore it.

If you are worried that you or someone you know is being harmed, or is suffering from neglect it is important to tell someone.

Everyone has the right to be safe and free from harm.

Remember, the person who did this may be doing it to others too. Or it could be that the person who is being harmed or neglected may not be able to report it themselves.

Do you need to give your name?

Any information you give will be treated with care. If you do not give your name, enquiries can still be made into the person's care and welfare.

Who should I contact?

If the person is in immediate danger, dial 999.

Otherwise contact your local Social Services:

Arran
01770 600742

Garnock Valley Area
01505 684551

Irvine Area
01294 324800

Largs Area
01475 687592

Three Towns Area
01294 605261

Ayrshire Out of Hours Service
0800 328 7758

If you would like this leaflet in large print, audio or Braille, alternative format or in a different language, please contact the Senior Officer, Adult Support and Protection on 01294 317700.

NORTH AYRSHIRE ADULT PROTECTION COMMITTEE

reach out
AND HELP SOMEONE

Are you worried about yourself or another adult?

Are you or someone you know at risk of harm?

A guide to identifying and helping Adults at Risk of Harm



Who can cause harm?

Anyone

It could be a:

- member of staff in any setting;
- carer;
- friend or neighbour;
- volunteer or;
- stranger.

What is harm?

Harm is all harmful conduct.

Some examples of this include:

- **Physical:** hitting, slapping, pushing, shaking, locking them in a room.
- **Psychological:** threats of harm, being left alone, humiliation, intimidation, causing distress, verbal abuse, bullying, blaming, constant criticism, controlling, depriving contact with others.
- **Neglect:** failure to provide medical or physical care, access to a doctor or other services, denying someone medication, food or heating, privacy or dignity, self neglect.

- **Financial:** stealing, fraud, pressure to hand over or sign over property or money, misuse of property or welfare benefits, or stopping someone getting their money or possessions.
- **Sexual:** any sexual activity that a person doesn't understand or want.

Where can harm happen?

Anywhere

It can happen in the family home, hospital ward, care home, day services, social clubs, day centres, at work and in public places.

What do we mean by “Adult”?

Anyone over 16 years old.

What if the person is under 16 years old?

The information in this leaflet relates specifically to adults, however you can use the contacts in this leaflet to get advice about how to report concerns for a child.

Legislation

The Scottish Government has introduced legislation to protect people from being harmed. It is called the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007.

This law respects an individual's right to have their wishes and feelings taken into account and to have the minimum amount of intervention into their personal life.

Who would act?

Councils, health, police staff and other public agencies, must now work together to protect “adults at risk”.

Councils have a duty to make inquiries where harm is known or suspected.

Council Officers who are specifically trained Social Workers with a duty to:

- Visit and interview people;
- Ensure the safety of the adult;
- Consider whether there is any need for advocacy and other services, such as help in the home or community for the adult or for their family or carers.

