

Safeguarding Glossary

2024

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Abuse

Abuse is the misuse of power by one person over another. It can be physical, emotional, sexual, verbal, psychological, and financial and can also be institutional.

Advocacy

Support to help people say what they want, secure their rights, represent their interests and obtain services they need. Under the Care Act, the local authority must arrange for an independent advocate to represent and support an adult who is the subject of a safeguarding enquiry or a safeguarding adult review if they need help to understand and take part in the enquiry or review and to express their views, wishes, or feelings.

Alert

A concern that a person at risk is or may be a victim of abuse, neglect or exploitation. An alert may be a result of a disclosure, an incident, or other signs or indicators.

Alerter

The person who raises a concern that a child/adult is being, has been, or is at risk of being abused or neglected. This could be the person themselves, a member of their family, a carer, a friend or neighbour or could be a member of staff or a volunteer.

Best interests' decision

A decision made in the best interests of an individual defined by the Act) when they have been assessed as lacking the mental capacity to make a particular decision. The best interest decision must take into consideration anything relevant such the past or present wishes of the person, a lasting power of attorney or advance directive. There is also a duty to consult with relevant people who know the person such as a family member, friend, GP or advocate.

Breast ironing

Breast ironing also known as breast flattening, is the pounding and massaging of a pubescent girl's breasts, using hard or heated objects, to try to make them stop developing or disappear. It is practised in some African countries but can happen anywhere in the world with some cases reported in the UK. It is a traditional measure considered by perpetrators to protect girls from unwanted male attention, sexual harassment and rape.

Bullying and harassment

Bullying is behaviour by an individual or group, repeated over time, that intentionally hurts another individual or group either physically or emotionally. Bullying can take many forms

(for instance, cyberbullying via text messages or the internet), and is often motivated by prejudice against particular groups.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE) is a type of sexual abuse. Children in exploitative situations and relationships receive something such as gifts, money or affection as a result of performing sexual activities or others performing sexual activities on them. It usually involves some form of grooming. Some children and young people are trafficked into or within the UK for the purpose of sexual exploitation. Sexual exploitation can also happen to young people in gangs.

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE)

Child Criminal Exploitation (CCE) is a growing issue where gangs target vulnerable children to get them to carry out criminal activity. Children who have been exploited and/or trafficked should be treated as victims rather than suspects. CCE can also apply to any adult, especially vulnerable adults or adults at risk.

Children Missing in Education

All children, regardless of their circumstances, are entitled to an efficient, full time education which is suitable to their age, ability, aptitude and any special educational needs they may have.

Children missing education are children of compulsory school age who are not registered pupils at a school and are not receiving suitable education otherwise than at a school. Children missing education are at significant risk of underachieving, being victims of harm, exploitation or radicalisation, and becoming NEET (not in education, employment or training) later in life.

Child protection

Process of protecting individual children identified as having suffered, or at risk of, significant harm as a result of abuse or neglect.

Child Protection conference

The child protection conference is arranged to enable those Practitioners most involved with the child and family, and the family themselves, to assess all relevant information, and plan how best to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child who has suffered, or is at risk of, significant harm.

Child protection enquiry

This is carried out, under section 47 Children Act 1989, when there is reasonable cause to suspect that a child has suffered, or is at risk of, significant harm. The enquiry is carried out by Children's Social Care although both the Police and the NSPCC have powers to carry out such enquiries.

Child protection meeting

A meeting arranged by Children's Social Care to consider how best to protect a child from harm.

Child Protection Plan

A detailed inter-agency plan setting out what must be done to protect a child from further harm, to promote the child's health and development and if it is in the best interests of the child, to support the family to promote the child's welfare.

Coercive Control

Coercive control is recognised as the behaviour that underpins domestic abuse. It is a pattern of behaviour which seeks to take away the victim's sense of self, minimising their freedom of action and violating their human rights. It is also used in other types of abuse, such as modern-day slavery.

The Serious Crime Act 2015 creates a new offence of controlling or coercive behaviour in intimate or familial relationships (section 76). The new offence closes a gap in the law around patterns of controlling or coercive behaviour in an ongoing relationship between intimate partners or family members.

Confidentiality

Confidentiality is the process of handling information that is identified as being of a personal and sensitive nature.

Consent

Agreement given by a person who is competent to do so.

Consultation

An opportunity to seek advice and/or information with a view to guiding practice.

Core Assessment

An in-depth assessment which addresses the central or most important aspects of the needs of the child/adult and the capacity of his or her parents or caregivers to respond appropriately to these needs within the wider family and community context. It is to be undertaken where circumstances are complex and should be completed within a maximum of 35 working days.

Core Group

A 'Team Around the Child', that is brought together once a child becomes subject to a child protection plan. Members of the core group are parents/carers and practitioners who are

working with the child and/or family. They should meet on a regular basis. The child may also be a member subject to age and level of understanding. A judgement has to be made about whether it is in the best interests of the child to attend the core group meetings.

County lines

County lines is a term used when drug gangs, usually from big cities expand their operations to smaller towns, villages and rural areas, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable people to sell drugs. In most instances, the users or customers will live in a different area to where the dealers and networks are based, so drug runners are needed to transport the drugs and collect payment.

Couriers

Are young people who are used to travel across the country and county lines to deliver the drugs.

Cuckooing

Is a form of crime, termed by the police, in which [drug dealers](#) take over the home of a vulnerable person in order to use it as a base for [county lines drug trafficking](#). The crime is named for the [cuckoo](#)'s practice of taking over other birds' nests for its young.

Cyber bullying

Cyberbullying is bullying that takes place over digital devices like smartphones, computers, and tablets. Cyberbullying can occur through text and apps, or online in social media, forums, or gaming where people can view, participate in, or share content. Cyberbullying includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false, or cruel content about someone else. It can include sharing personal or private information about someone else causing embarrassment or humiliation. Some cyberbullying crosses the line into unlawful or criminal behaviour.

DASH (Domestic Abuse, Stalking and Harassment and 'Honour' Based Violence)

A risk identification checklist (RIC) is a tool used to help front-line practitioners identify high risk cases of domestic abuse, stalking and 'honour'-based violence.

DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service)

A government body established in 2012 through the Protection of Freedoms Act and the merger of two former organisations, the Criminal Records Bureau and the Independent Safeguarding Authority. The DBS is designed to help employers make safer recruitment

decisions and prevent unsuitable people from working with vulnerable adults. The DBS search police records and barring lists of prospective employees and issue DBS certificates. They also manage central barred lists of people who are known to have caused harm to adults with needs of care and support.

Debt bondage

Occurs when a person is forced to work to pay off a debt. They are tricked into working for little or no pay, with no control over their debt. Most or all of the money they earn goes to pay off their loan. Often drug dealers will force young people and vulnerable adults to work for them to repay a debt.

Defensible decision making

Providing a clear rationale based on legislation, policy, models of practice or recognised tools utilised to come to an informed decision. This decision is based on the information known at that particular time and it is important to accurately and concisely record the decision making process, in order to explain how and why the decision was made at that time.

Disability Abuse

A disabled person is more likely to experience domestic abuse and may be less able to protect themselves - making them more vulnerable to the possibility of being abused. The risk of abuse can be increased as they are often reliant on the perpetrator for their care.

The perpetrator may be abusive or neglectful in their care of the victim or even withhold care altogether. Abuse can be withholding sensory or mobility aids from the victim to isolate them. It can also be withholding medication or a person's means of any independence.

The perpetrator may take control of the finances of the victim and cause them to get into debt, or refrain from giving them the funds they are owed. The perpetrator may insist on being present at any medical or social care appointments, making it difficult for the victim to disclose any disability abuse. Disabled people will find it more difficult to remove themselves from an abusive situation or to leave their home if it has been adapted for their disability.

DOLS (Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards):

Measures to protect people who lack the mental capacity to make certain decisions for themselves which came into effect in April 2009 as part of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, and apply to people in care homes or hospitals where they may be deprived of their liberty.

Domestic violence and/or abuse

Domestic violence and/or abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.

Discriminatory Abuse

Discriminatory abuse is when someone picks on another person treats them unfairly because something about them is different. This can include unfair or less favourable treatment due to a person's race, gender, gender identity, age, disability, religion, sexuality, appearance or cultural background.

It can result from situations that exploit a person's vulnerability by treating the person in a way that excludes them from opportunities they should have as equal citizens, for example, education, health, justice and access to services and protection.

Everyone has the right to be treated equally and express and practice their beliefs and values.

Emotional Abuse

One definition of emotional abuse is "any act including confinement, isolation, verbal assault, humiliation, intimidation, infantilization, or any other treatment which may diminish the sense of identity, dignity, and self-worth." Emotional abuse is also known as psychological abuse. People who suffer from emotional abuse tend to have very low self-esteem, show personality changes (such as becoming withdrawn) and may even become depressed, anxious or suicidal.

Fabricated or induced illness

Fabricated or induced illness is a rare form of child abuse. It occurs when a parent or carer fabricates or induces illness in a child. Also known as Munchausen's syndrome by proxy.

Female genital mutilation (FGM)

Female genital mutilation (FGM), also known as female genital cutting and female circumcision, is the partial or full cutting of a girl's clitoris and labia, for non-medical reasons, nearly always on girls between four and 12 years old. FGM is considered child abuse in the UK and is illegal. It is a grave violation of the human rights of girls and women.

Faith (or Belief) Abuse

Faith (or Belief) Abuse is child abuse linked to faith or belief. It includes belief in concepts of witchcraft and spirit possession, demons or the devil acting through children or leading them astray

Forced marriage

Forced marriage is a marriage in which one or both of the parties are married without his or her consent or against his or her will. A forced marriage differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties consent to the assistance of their parents or a third party (such as a matchmaker) in identifying a spouse. Duress is involved. Duress can include physical, physiological, financial, sexual and emotional pressure.

Financial Abuse or Material Abuse

Financial or material abuse includes: coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions. the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

Fraser Competence

This describes factors that can be used to help judge if a child is able to understand a question, the implications of what is being asked and is able to express an opinion or consent. Each child and young person is an individual and their "Fraser competence" would depend on factors including their age, development and capacity to demonstrate an understanding of the issue under discussion. Previously referred to as Gillick Competent.

Fraser Guidelines

The Fraser guidelines give specific guidance on providing advice and treatment to young people under 16 years of age. Refer to the NSPCC website www.nspcc.org.uk or the CQC website www.cqc.org.uk

Gambling

Gambling is a cause for concern for both young people and adults. (NHS England) research suggests that the problem is being fuelled by online gaming sites and targeted adverts; hundreds of thousands of people in England have a serious problem with gambling, with an additional two million at risk of developing a disorder.

Gang and Youth violence

Gang and Youth violence is normally associated with 'street gangs' for whom crime and violence is a core part of their identity. It can lead to increased anti-social behaviour and youth

offending; sometimes involving knife crime. This can be dangerous especially for young vulnerable people as they may be forced to commit a crime or do things that are unsafe.

Gender-based violence/violence against women and girls

Gender-based violence/violence against women and girls refers to violence, physical, sexual or otherwise, stalking and harassment and female genital mutilation.

Grooming

Grooming is the criminal activity of becoming friends with a child, especially over the internet, in order to try to persuade the child to have a sexual relationship. Grooming can also occur with adults when someone builds an emotional connection with someone to earn trust with the purposes of sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or even trafficking. Groomers desensitise their victim so that their normal guards/filters fail e.g. radicalisation.

Hate crime

Hate crime are any crimes that are targeted at a person because of hostility or prejudice towards that person's disability, race or ethnicity, religion or belief, sexual orientation, transgender identity, subculture.

Homelessness

Homelessness is defined as living in housing that is below the minimum standard or lacks secure tenure. Homelessness and poverty are interrelated as people who are homeless are most often unable to acquire and maintain regular, safe, secure and adequate housing due to a lack of, or an unsteady income.

Homophobic or Transphobic abuse

- **Homophobic bullying:** this is when bullying is motivated by a prejudice against lesbian or gay people, or those who are perceived to be lesbian or gay. This abuse can include things like spreading rumours that someone is gay or lesbian, or suggesting that something or someone is inferior and so they are 'gay'. Sometimes people are homophobically bullied because they have a gay or lesbian friend or family member.
- **Biphobic bullying:** this is bullying aimed at bisexual people - or people perceived to be bisexual (people who are attracted to more than one gender). Bisexual young people are often bullied by being subject to stereotyping (e.g. that they are sexually promiscuous and greedy) or it is assumed that their bisexuality is just a phase before they realise their 'real' sexual orientation. This can lead to bisexual people being largely invisible or not taken seriously. Bisexual people can also face problems in being accepted by others (including lesbian, gay and heterosexual people), and in accessing appropriate support. Sometimes people are bullied because they have a friend or family member who is bisexual. **Transphobic bullying** is discriminatory behaviour towards someone because they are, or are perceived to be 'transgender' (a person who believes their true gender is

different to that given to them at birth). Young transgender people are often bullied by people who think 'boys should act like boys' and 'girls should act like girls'. Sometimes people are bullied because they have a transgender friend or family member.

Honour-based violence

Honour-based violence is a violent crime or incident which may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family or community. It is often linked to family members or acquaintances who mistakenly believe someone has brought shame to their family or community by doing something that is not in keeping with the traditional beliefs of their culture.

Initiation ritual

Initiation ritual is a rite of passage marking entrance or acceptance into a group or gang. It may require new members to commit crimes before accepting them as part of the gang. New members may be physically beaten by fellow gang members to demonstrate their courage, also known as "beat in" or "jump in", which occasionally results in a fatality. One study indicates that young people are more likely to be hurt in gang initiation than they are by refusing to join.

Loco Parentis

Loco Parentis is the legal responsibility of a person or organisation to take on some of the functions and responsibilities of a parent/carer.

Level of Needs Framework (LNF)

The LNF provides a common approach to identifying and describing levels of need for children and young people. It has been developed for use by practitioners to support joint working and communication between all agencies. It will support earlier intervention by providing a tool to identify needs at the earliest opportunity and a consistent approach to coordinating services

MAPPA (Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements)

Statutory arrangements for managing sexual and violent offenders.

MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference):

A multi-agency forum of organisations that manage high risk cases of domestic abuse, stalking and 'honour'-based violence.

MASH (Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)

A joint service made up of Police, Adult Services, NHS and other organisations. Information from different agencies is collated and used to decide what action to take. This helps agencies to act quickly in a co-ordinated and consistent way, ensuring that the person at risk is kept safe.

Mate Crime

Occurs when vulnerable adults are “befriended” with intention to abuse.

Modern slavery (or Human Trafficking)

Modern Slavery is the exploitation of people who have been forced, deceived, or coerced into a life of labour and servitude. It is a crime hidden from society where victims are subjected to abuse, inhumane and degrading treatment. Examples of enslavement include: a person who is forced to work or serve - through fear and threats of violence.

Mental Health

Mental health refers to cognitive, behavioural, and emotional well-being. It is all about how people think, feel, and behave. People sometimes use the term “mental health” to mean the absence of a mental disorder. Mental health can affect daily living, relationships, and physical health. However, this link also works in the other direction. Factors in people’s lives, interpersonal connections, and physical factors can all contribute to mental health disruptions.

Looking after mental health can preserve a person’s ability to enjoy life. Doing this involves reaching a balance between life activities, responsibilities, and efforts to achieve psychological resilience. Conditions such as stress, depression, and anxiety can all affect mental health and disrupt a person’s routine.

Mental Capacity

Refers to whether someone has the mental capacity to make a decision or not. The Mental Capacity Act 2005 and the code of practice outlines how agencies should support someone who lacks the capacity to make a decision.

Neglect and Acts of Omission

Definition - The failure of any person, who has responsibility for the charge, care or custody of an adult at risk or child, to provide the amount and type of care that a reasonable person would be expected to provide. Neglect can be intentional or unintentional. Acts can include:

- Ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs
- Failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services

- The withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate
- nutrition and heating.

Self-Neglect

This covers a wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surrounding and includes behaviour such as hoarding. It is important to consider capacity when self-neglect is suspected. Also consider how it may impact on other family members and whether this gives rise to a safeguarding concern.

Significant Harm (Children)

The Children Act 1989 introduced the concept of significant harm as the threshold that justifies compulsory intervention in family life in the best interests of children. Whether harm or likely harm suffered by a child is significant is determined by comparing the child's health or development with that which could reasonably be expected of a similar child.

Tinies

A word used to refer to small children, children are often used in connection with County Lines.

Trapping

The act of selling drugs. Trapping can refer to the act of moving drugs from one town to another or the act of selling drugs in one.

Trap Houses

A drug house is a residence used in the illicit drug economy. Drug houses shelter drug users and provide a place to deal to them. Drug houses are also used as laboratories to synthesize drugs, as caches of precursors and products, and to conceal illegal cultivation.

Trap Line

This refers to when someone owns a mobile phone specifically for the purpose of running and selling of drug.

Organisational Abuse

Including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting like a hospital or care home, e.g. this may range from isolated incidents to continuing ill-treatment.

Parental Responsibility (PR)

A legal term from section 3(1) of the Children Act 1989, meaning 'all the rights, duties, powers and authority which by law a parent of a child has in relation to the child and his property.'

Always held by the mother and also by a father where the parents are married. An unmarried father also acquires parental responsibility if he becomes registered as the child's father (for a child born after 01/12/03), or through a legal order.

Parental responsibility is only removed from parents completely at the point if the child is adopted. PR is also acquired by the local authority if the court commits child to its care.

Peer-on-peer/child-on-child abuse

Peer-on-peer/child-on-child abuse includes, but is not limited to:

- physical and sexual abuse
- sexual harassment and violence
- emotional harm
- on and offline bullying
- teenage relationship abuse

It can even include grooming children for sexual and criminal exploitation.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is when someone hurts or harms an individual on purpose. It includes:

- hitting with hands or objects
- slapping and punching
- kicking
- shaking
- throwing
- poisoning
- burning and scalding
- biting and scratching
- breaking bones
- drowning

It's important to remember that physical abuse is any way of intentionally causing physical harm. It also includes making up the symptoms of an illness or causing an individual to become unwell.

Prejudice and discrimination

Prejudice and discrimination have been prevalent throughout human history. Prejudice has to do with the inflexible and irrational attitudes and opinions held by members of one group about another, while discrimination refers to behaviours directed against another group. Being prejudiced usually means having preconceived beliefs about groups of people or cultural practices.

Private Fostering

A private fostering arrangement is essentially one that is made privately (that is to say without the involvement of a local authority) for the care of a child under the age of 16 (under 18, if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative with the intention that it should last for 28 days or more. Private foster carers may be from the extended family, such as a cousin or great aunt. However, a person who is a relative under the Children Act 1989 i.e. a grandparent, brother, sister, uncle or aunt (whether of the full or half blood or by marriage) or step-parent will not be a private foster carer. A private foster carer may be a friend of the family, the parent of a friend of the child, or someone previously unknown to the child's family who is willing to privately foster a child. The period for which the child is cared for and accommodated by the private foster carer should be continuous, but that continuity is not broken by the occasional short break.

Psychological Abuse

Including emotional abuse, threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or unreasonable and unjustified withdrawal of services or supportive networks.

Racist Abuse

Racism and racist bullying can include:

- being called racist names or being sent insulting messages or threats
- having your belongings damaged or having to see racist graffiti
- personal attacks, including violence or assault
- being left out, treated differently or excluded
- people making assumptions about you because of your colour, race or culture
- being made to feel like you have to change how you look
- racist jokes, including jokes about your colour, nationality race or culture.

Radicalisation

Radicalisation is the action or process of causing someone to adopt radical positions on political or social issues. It happens when a person's thinking and behaviour become significantly different from how most of the members of their society and community view social issues and participate politically. Radicalisation can be carried out in many different ways – the most common is via the internet; people are often targeted and then 'groomed'. Often vulnerable people are targeted and this poses serious risks to a person's safety.

Revenge porn

Revenge porn refers to the sharing of explicit or sexual, images or videos, without the consent of the person in the image. This is an issue among people of all ages from children as young as 11 to much older adults.

Self-harm

Self-harm is when somebody intentionally damages or injures their body. It's usually a way of coping with or expressing overwhelming emotional distress.

Sometimes when people self-harm, they feel on some level that they intend to die. More than half of people who die by suicide have a history of self-harm.

But the intention is more often to punish themselves, express their distress, or relieve unbearable tension. Sometimes it's a mixture of all three.

Self-harm can also be a cry for help.

Sexual Abuse

Sexual violence and abuse is any behaviour thought to be of a sexual nature which is unwanted and takes place without consent. Sexual violence and abuse can be physical, psychological, verbal or online. Any behaviour of a sexual nature that causes you distress is considered sexual violence or abuse, this can include touching and kissing.

Social Media

Social Media can be used to contact young people (and adults) with a view to grooming them for sex, inappropriate relationships or other illicit activity such as radicalisation. It may be via chat rooms, instant messaging, mobile phones or text messaging. Cyberbullying and sexting are widespread. Misuse of social media in this way can be extremely harmful to people, especially young people and vulnerable adults.

Sofa surfing

Sofa surfing is the practice of staying temporarily with various friends and relatives while attempting to find permanent accommodation. It is equivalent to homelessness as it can be detrimental to health, education and work and, where overstaying their welcome, can mean becoming exposed to dangers.

Special Educational Need (SEND)

Special Educational Need (SEND) is defined as a learning difficulty or disability that makes learning a challenge for a child or an adult. They have greater difficulty learning than other people of the same age. Their disability prevents them making use of facilities and services. Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018) suggests that disabled children are at an increased risk of abuse.

Substance misuse

Substance misuse includes alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs, medicines, new psychoactive substances (“legal highs”) and other volatile substances. Drug abuse is the habitual taking of illegal drugs.

Suicidal thoughts/ideation

An individual with suicidal ideation is preoccupied with the idea of suicide. They may regularly think about the way they would commit suicide or think about what life would be like if they weren’t around. They may also replay the suicidal act out in their mind.

Teenage relationship abuse

Teenage relationship abuse is when there is actual or threatened abuse within a romantic relationship or a former relationship. One partner will try to maintain power and control over the other. This abuse can take a number of forms: physical, sexual, financial, emotional or social. This includes coercive and controlling behaviour.

Upskirting

Upskirting is a highly intrusive practice, which typically involves someone taking a picture under another person’s clothing without their knowledge, with the intention of viewing their genitals or buttocks (with or without underwear). The new law will capture instances where the purpose of the behaviour is to obtain sexual gratification, or to cause humiliation, distress or alarm.

Youth produced sexual imagery (Sexting)

Youth Produced sexual imagery (Sexting) is the exchange of self-generated sexually explicit images over the internet using mobile phones, tablets, smartphones, and laptops - any device that allows the sharing of media and messages. Young people may also call it nudies, trading nudes, pic for pic or selfies. It’s illegal to create or share explicit images of a child (anyone under 18), even if the person doing it is a child themselves.