SEE? SUSPECT? REPORT!

SAFEGUARDING IS EVERYONE’S RESPONSIBILITY

www.luton.gov.uk/adultsafeguarding
Luton Borough Council is committed to safeguarding adults who may be at risk of harm.

If you have concerns that a vulnerable adult is being abused you should contact the Council’s Adult Safeguarding team. They will answer your questions and explain how to raise a ‘safeguarding alert’.

Who is at risk of abuse?

Any adult can suffer abuse, however, those most at risk include adults aged 18 years or over who:

• receive (or are in need of) community care services
• may be unable to protect themselves from harm.

What do we mean by abuse?

Abuse is a breach of an individual’s rights, which may be a single act or happen repeatedly over time. This abuse may be deliberate but it may also happen as a result of poor care practices or ignorance.

The adult at risk may be neglected, persuaded to agree to something against their will or taken advantage of because they do not fully understand the consequences of their choices or actions.
Some examples of abuse

Abuse can take many forms and may include:

Physical abuse
- Hitting
- Slapping
- Pushing
- Rough handling
- Misusing medication
- Deprivation of food, clothing, warmth and appropriate health care.

Psychological abuse
- Shouting
- Threatening punishment
- Swearing
- Using degrading language (most types of abuse also result in emotional abuse).

Sexual abuse
Any kind of sexual activity where an adult at risk has not or is unable to give consent or has been pressured into.

Discriminatory abuse
- Racist
- Sexist
- Homophobic
- or abuse based on disability or age.

Financial abuse
- Misuse or theft of money, possessions, property or other goods
- Exploitation or pressure in connection with wills or property.

Neglect
Ignoring medical or physical care needs by failing to understand and meet the care needs of the vulnerable adult (intentionally or unintentionally).
ADULT ABUSE

Who can abuse?

Anyone may abuse but it is often someone known to the vulnerable adult.

Where does it happen?

Abuse can happen anywhere. It may happen at home, in a residential or nursing home, hospital, day centre or in a public place. Abuse may also constitute a criminal offence.

What actions should you take if an adult tells you that they are being abused or are frightened about being abused?

Do

• Stay calm and listen to them
• Take what you are being told seriously
• Be aware that medical evidence might be needed
• Offer them support to help them to stop the abuse happening
• Make a written note of what you have been told
• Contact the police if you suspect a crime has been committed or if the person is in danger
• Raise a ‘safeguarding alert’ to the Adult Safeguarding team

Do not

• Press the person for more details (these will be taken at a later date)
• Assume that someone else is aware of the situation and will take action
• Contact the alleged abuser
• Promise to keep the disclosure secret
• Be afraid to contact social services or the police to discuss the disclosure

How to report Abuse:

Contact the Luton Borough Council’s Adult Safeguarding team:
Tel - 01582 54 77 30
Email - adultsafeguarding@luton.gov.uk
In an emergency contact the appropriate emergency services on 999
For more information go to www.luton.gov.uk/adultsafeguarding