

Safeguarding Adults Week 2020

7-minute briefings

Background

“Safeguarding means protecting an adult’s right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the risks and experience of abuse or neglect, while at the same time making sure that the adult’s wellbeing is promoted including, where appropriate, having regard to their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs in deciding on any action” (Care and Support Guidance, 2017)

Safeguarding adults should be person centred and outcomes focused.

Why it matters

Grooming is a form of abuse that involves manipulating someone until they are isolated, dependent and vulnerable to exploitation by others.

What to do

Take immediate action if the person is at risk of serious harm.

Discuss your concerns with Adult Social Care/ Safeguarding Adult Team/ Nurse/ Safeguarding Lead (whichever is relevant to your organisation)

In the event of an emergency contact the police on 101 or 999 if person is in immediate danger.



Information

Grooming can be a gradual process because groomers often work hard to befriend their victims, some organisations will refer to it as “mate crime”. The abuser will pick their target and invest time in building up trust. Often the abuse, which is usually sexual or financial, doesn’t come until after “friendships” are made. The groomer may pretend to be someone they are not in order to gain trust. The groomer can use different ways to gain their target’s trust, including the giving of gifts or promises to care for and protect. But eventually they will want something in return, leading to abuse.

Key Human Rights to consider

Everyone has the:

- Right to be free from inhuman and degrading treatment;
- Right to liberty;
- Right to respect for private life, family life and home;
- Right to non-discrimination.

Mental Capacity

Understanding and assessing the adult’s mental capacity is crucial. A person without capacity may not understand the consequences of their actions and we have a duty of care to them.

Signs to look out for:

- Changes in behaviour (withdrawn, troubled or volatile);
- Using or wearing something new, new items appearing in the home;
- Becoming isolated from family and friends;
- Unusual bank withdrawals;
- Unable to pay for food or pay bills;
- More time spent on the phone or online;
- Being secretive;
- Talking about a new “friend” but giving little details of who they are.