

What is abuse?

Abuse is a form of maltreatment and can either be inflicted by others or self-inflicted. Abuse can take place at home, in education or within any physical environment. It can also happen in an online or virtual environment, such as social media or gaming apps. An abuser can be anyone, but they are often known by the young person or Adult at Risk. Abuse can occur in any relationship at any time. It can occur within any community, culture or religion.

Emotional/Psychological

Persistent emotional maltreatment of a person that results in their wellbeing or development being impaired. Some form of emotional abuse is involved in all types of abuse, but can also occur on its own.

Neglect/Act of Omission

The failure to prevent harm that may damage, impair the growth or development of a child or young person by not meeting their basic physical or mental needs.

Peer on peer abuse

Children and young people can also be abusers of other children, usually through bullying, sexual abuse, physical abuse, issues online, youth produced sexual images or any form of indecent images.



Physical

An individual's body being injured or hurt e.g. hitting, pushing or assault. Physical abuse can also be in other forms i.e. poisoning, inflicting illness upon another. It is an intentional act.

"Sexting"

Including youth produced sexual images: When someone shares sexual, naked or semi-naked images of themselves or others or sends sexually explicit pictures. Sharing possession or distribution of such images of a person under the age of 18 is illegal in the UK. There are also criminal offences in regards to adults posting sexual images of other adults in certain circumstances.

Online bullying or cyberbullying

happens across social media networks, when gaming or mobile phones. Examples can include posting offensive material, spreading rumours or embarrassing images.

Sexual

Involvement in a sexual act where the person does not wish to be involved, does not have the understanding to make an informed choice or through coercion e.g., rape, sexual assault, inappropriate touching or exposure. It may also include sexual exploitation, where gifts or bribes are offered. Sexual abuse can also occur across electronic devices or social media.

Bullying

Is a pattern of behaviour that can be threatening, aggressive, intimidating, abusive, insulting, offensive, cruel, vindictive, humiliating, degrading or demeaning. It can happen between young people, adults, in groups or singularly. It can happen within the 'real world' or happen "on-line".



Drug or alcohol misuse

Is a pattern of behaviour which changes or alters the mood or mental state of an individual. Not all substances that can cause harm are illegal, but may cause long term issues.

Organisational/Institutional

Where an organisation fails to prevent repeated maltreatment, abuse or neglect of children or Adults at Risk

Self-harm or self-neglect

Deliberately causing harm to yourself by either hurting or putting yourself in harm's way. Self-harm is mainly a coping strategy which young people adopt to release emotional stress. Self-neglect is the failure to care for yourself, e.g. personal hygiene, health or environment.

Addiction

is the inability to stop a particular behaviour (Alcohol, Drugs, Gambling etc) which can impact relationships, health, finances and career. Addiction often co-occurs with other issues and it can make people vulnerable to coercion and/or mental health issues.

Financial

The theft of a person's property or assets.

Exploitation

Sexual – is where individuals are coerced into any form of sexual activity by power, money or status
Modern slavery / Human trafficking – includes forced labour, domestic servitude, coercion, deceiving or forcing an individual into a life of abuse/servitude e.g. prostitution, drug running
Gang - a group of people (any age) with a defined leadership and internal organisation that identifies with or claims control over territory in a community and engages, either individually or collectively, in illegal and possibly violent behaviour.
'County Lines' - is a term used when drug gangs from cities expand their operations to smaller towns, often using violence to drive out local dealers and exploiting children and vulnerable adults to sell drugs.

Discrimination

When someone is targeted because of a difference i.e., race, sex, gender, age, disability, religion or belief, sexual preference, appearance or cultural background, pregnancy and maternity, marriage or civil partnership

Harmful traditional practices

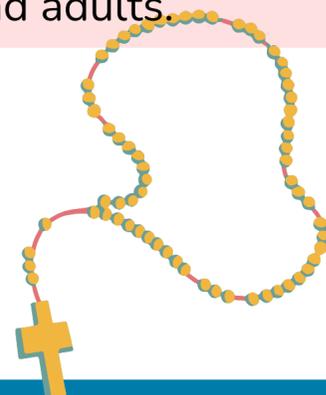
Forced marriage – When someone is forced into a marriage without their consent, where violence or threats are used in the form of coercion to this end. This practice is illegal in the UK.

Female genital mutilation – Refers to a procedure which intentionally alters or causes injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons and without their informed consent. It occurs in the UK or an individual may be taken outside of the UK.

Honour based violence – When incidents or crimes are committed to protect or defend the family's honour/or of the community.

Domestic (Relationship) Abuse

is abuse or violence in a relationship. It is a pattern of behaviour that can be a form of abuse and its purpose is to assert power over another. From 2018 stalking is also included in this definition. It also includes coercive behaviour. Such abuse can happen to young people and adults.



Specialist areas of safeguarding

Safeguarding is an underpinning principle of everything we do, sometimes a particular aspect of working with children, young people or Adults at Risk is not in itself a safeguarding issue, but may need to be managed by utilising safeguarding processes.

Mental Well-being

Mental well-being is where an individual can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and can contribute to their community. Anyone can experience good or poor mental wellbeing at any point in their lives. Mental health problems take many forms. It may vary in terms of strength, frequency of re-occurrence, an occasional crisis or a steady state over many years. There may be a small risk in terms of aggressive behaviour.

Radicalisation

Protecting children from the risk of radicalisation is a wider safeguarding duty and is similar in nature to protecting children from other grooming behaviours. All adults working or volunteering with children, should be able to identify children who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and know what to do when they are identified. While the Archdiocese outside of Education, do not have a legal duty under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015, to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism' (the 'Prevent duty'), we take all aspects of the safety and welfare of our young people seriously. Radicalisation can occur within any community if extremist views are left unchallenged.

Contact us

If any member of the Clergy, Religious, parishioner, volunteer or staff member has a concern in regard to any of these areas, contact the Archdiocese Safeguarding Team for advice and guidance.

safeguardingoffice@rcaos.org.uk
0207 261 1606

**Safeguarding
adults is
everyone's
responsibility**



**Keeping
children safe
is everyone's
responsibility**



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SOUTHWARK