

# Signs of abuse

## Children

| Neglect  | Physical Abuse  |
|--|---|
| <p><b>They may:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• be smelly or dirty</li> <li>• have unwashed clothes</li> <li>• have inadequate clothing, e.g. not having a winter coat</li> <li>• seem hungry or turn up to lessons without having breakfast or any lunch money</li> </ul> <p><b>They may have:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• untreated injuries, medical and dental issues</li> <li>• repeated accidental injuries caused by lack of supervision</li> <li>• recurring illnesses or infections</li> <li>• not been given appropriate medicines</li> <li>• poor muscle tone or prominent joints</li> <li>• skin sores, rashes, flea bites, scabies or ringworm</li> <li>• thin or swollen tummy</li> <li>• anaemia</li> <li>• tiredness</li> <li>• faltering weight or growth and not reaching developmental milestones (known as failure to thrive)</li> <li>• poor language, communication or social skills.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unexplained bruising, marks or injuries on any part of the body</li> <li>• Multiple bruises – in clusters, often on the upper arm, outside of the thigh</li> <li>• Cigarette burns</li> <li>• Human bite marks</li> <li>• Broken bones</li> <li>• Scalds</li> <li>• Scarring</li> <li>• Effects of poisoning such as vomiting, drowsiness or seizures</li> <li>• Respiratory problems from drowning, suffocation or poisoning</li> </ul>   |
| Sexual Abuse   |   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pain or itching in the genital area</li> <li>• Bruising or bleeding near genital area</li> <li>• Sexually transmitted disease</li> <li>• Use Inappropriate language or behaviour</li> </ul>   | <p><b>Emotional Abuse</b></p> <p>Changes in emotions are a normal part of growing up, so it can be really difficult to tell if a child is being emotionally abused.</p> <p>Children may:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use language, act in a way or know about things that you wouldn't expect them to know for their age</li> <li>• struggle to control strong emotions or have extreme outbursts</li> <li>• seem isolated from their parents</li> <li>• lack social skills or have few, if any, friends.</li> </ul> |

## Adults

| Physical Abuse  | Psychological or Emotional Abuse   |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No or inconsistent explanation for injuries</li> <li>• Injuries are inconsistent with the person's lifestyle</li> <li>• Bruising, cuts, welts, burns and/or marks on the body or loss of hair in clumps</li> <li>• Frequent injuries</li> <li>• Unexplained falls</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Withdrawal or change in the psychological state of the person</li> <li>• Insomnia</li> <li>• Uncooperative and aggressive behaviour</li> <li>• A change of appetite, weight loss/gain</li> <li>• Signs of distress: tearfulness or anger</li> </ul> |

| Sexual Abuse   | Financial Abuse   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bruising, particularly to the thighs, buttocks and upper arms and marks on the neck</li> <li>• Bleeding, pain or itching in the genital area</li> <li>• Unusual difficulty in walking or sitting</li> <li>• The uncharacteristic use of explicit sexual language</li> <li>• Fear of receiving help with personal care</li> <li>• Fear of a particular person</li> </ul>                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unexplained withdrawal of funds from accounts</li> <li>• The family or others show unusual interest in the assets of the person</li> <li>• Disparity between the person's living conditions and their financial resources, e.g. insufficient food in the house</li> </ul>  |
| Discriminatory Abuse   | Domestic Abuse  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The person appears withdrawn and isolated</li> <li>• Expressions of anger, frustration, fear or anxiety</li> <li>• The support on offer does not take account of the person's individual needs in terms of a protected characteristic</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Physical evidence of violence such as bruising, cuts, broken bones</li> <li>• Verbal abuse and humiliation in front of others</li> <li>• Fear of outside intervention</li> <li>• Damage to home or property</li> <li>• Isolation – not seeing friends and family</li> <li>• Limited access to money</li> </ul>   |
| Modern Slavery   | Organisation/Institutional Abuse  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Signs of physical or emotional abuse</li> <li>• Appearing to be malnourished, unkempt or withdrawn</li> <li>• Isolation from the community, seeming under the control or influence of others</li> <li>• Lack of personal effects or identification documents</li> <li>• Always wearing the same clothes</li> <li>• Avoidance of eye contact, appearing frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of flexibility/choice for service users</li> <li>• People being hungry or dehydrated</li> <li>• Poor standards of care</li> <li>• Lack of personal clothing and possessions and communal use of personal items</li> <li>• Lack of adequate procedures</li> <li>• Poor record-keeping and missing documents</li> <li>• Few social, recreational and educational activities</li> <li>• Public discussion of personal matters</li> </ul> |
| Neglect or Acts of Omission  | Self-Neglect  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor environment – dirty or unhygienic</li> <li>• Poor physical condition and/or personal hygiene</li> <li>• Malnutrition or unexplained weight loss</li> <li>• Accumulation of untaken medication</li> <li>• Uncharacteristic failure to engage in social interaction</li> <li>• Inappropriate or inadequate clothing</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Very poor personal hygiene</li> <li>• Unkempt appearance</li> <li>• Lack of essential food, clothing or shelter</li> <li>• Malnutrition and/or dehydration</li> <li>• Neglecting household maintenance</li> <li>• Hoarding</li> <li>• Inability or unwillingness to take medication or treat illness or injury</li> </ul>  |