



Vulnerable Adults Policy

The SPACE Centre staff* do not work alone with vulnerable adults. A carer/care worker is with a vulnerable adult at all times.

*Staff refers to paid employee or volunteer.

Definition of a vulnerable adult

“A person who is 18 years of age or over, and who is, or may be in need of community care services by reason of mental or other disability, age or illness and who is or may be unable to take care of him/herself, or unable to protect him/herself against significant harm or serious exploitation.”

(The Law Commission – 1997)

Definitions and Types of Abuse

- **Abuse** is a violation of an individual's human and civil rights by any other person or persons.
- **Abuse** may consist of a single act or repeated acts
- **The abuse** can be physical, verbal, psychological, financial, or emotional
- **Abuse** can be seen as an act of negligence or omission to act and may the unintended consequences of a person's actions
- **Abuse** can and may occur when a vulnerable adult is persuaded to enter into financial or sexual transactions to which they have not consented or cannot consent to.

Physical Abuse – Inflicting pain or physical injury, deliberately or otherwise. This may include hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, undue restraint, or inappropriate sanctions.

Sexual Abuse - The involvement of a person in sexual acts to which the vulnerable adult has not or could not consent and/or was pressured into consenting. This may include touching, fondling, actual or attempted rape and sexual assault, exposure to pornographic materials or being forced to witness sexual acts, offensive language.

Psychological abuse - Causing mental distress, anguish or deliberately negating the wishes of the vulnerable adult. This may include threats of harm, abandonment, humiliations, verbal or racial abuse, bullying, swearing, isolation, withdrawal from services or supportive networks, denial of choice.

Financial or material abuse – The inappropriate use of money, property or possessions of a vulnerable adult by another person. This may include theft, fraud, pressure around wills, property or inheritance, misuse or misappropriation of benefits, exploitation.

Neglect and acts of omission - If a vulnerable person's development or general well-being is adversely affected they could be suffering from neglect. This may include failure to access medical care or services, negligence in the face of risk taking, failure to give prescribed medication, poor nutrition, lack of heating, poor hygiene, failure to provide appropriate health and dental care

Discriminatory - The inappropriate treatment of a vulnerable adult because of their race, colour, sex, sexuality, disability. This may include racist, sexist or based on the person's disability, and other forms of harassment, slurs or similar treatment.

Report of abuse to staff or by staff which requires immediate action:

Report to staff member responsible for referrals immediately. After discussion with staff member, if the adult is deemed in danger Social Services and the Police are to be contacted. If staff member responsible for referrals is not available, contact Social Services and the Police on the following numbers as a referral MUST be made.

Preston Police	01772 203203
Social Services	0845 0530009

Report of abuse causing immediate concern:

Report to staff member responsible for referrals immediately. After discussion with staff member appropriate action will be agreed. The person reporting the abuse will be kept informed of all decisions.

If staff member responsible for referrals is not available, contact Social Services and the Police on the above numbers as a referral MUST be made.

Report of abuse which causes concern:

Report to staff member responsible for referrals at earliest opportunity. This will be followed by a meeting to discuss further action taking circumstances into account.

Report of a staff member abusing:

Report to Chairperson of the Friends of the Willows immediately. After discussion with staff member they will decide on action to be taken.

The SPACE Centre will:

- Not ignore any report of abuse
- Ensure its staff are CRB checked
- Provide adequate training for staff keeping up to date with new legislation
- Work with outside agencies to protect Vulnerable Adults
- Support those who report abuse
- Keep written records of any incidents or causes for concern