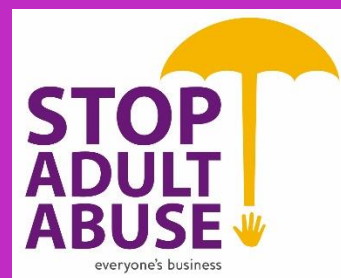


Safeguarding Myths



1. Adult abuse does not happen in my neighbourhood.

Myth: Adult abuse can occur anywhere. In Cheshire East last year, there were 3684 safeguarding concerns reported.

2. It's not my job to report adult abuse.

Myth: Reporting abuse is everyone's responsibility whether you are a professional, a family member or a member of the public.

3. People will know it was me that reported the concern.

Myth: When you report concerns to adult social care, you will be asked for your details and can discuss with the team if you'd prefer your details to be kept private.

4. It is best to wait until you're certain you have firm evidence before reporting an adult abuse concern.

Myth: No, if you feel something is not right then please talk to adult social care who can look into your concerns.

4. Reporting abuse means my loved one will go into a care home.

Myth: No, sharing your concerns with a Local Authority does not mean a person will go into a care home. The enquiry is very much centred around the person's wishes and views.

5. If the adult does not tell someone about the abuse taking place, it cannot be serious.

Myth: No, it is difficult to tell someone about the abuse and neglect that is happening especially if they are being controlled by another person. They may show signs in other ways such as becoming withdrawn, having injuries or bruising and having unpaid bills. People need support and understanding-not judgement.

6. Most abuse is perpetrated by a stranger.

Myth: Most abuse is carried out by someone we know and commonly, within families. However, anyone can be an abuser including carers, professionals, a neighbour or a member of the public.

7. Physical abuse is the most common form of abuse.

Myth: The highest form of abuse last year in Cheshire East was neglect (48%). There are also other forms of abuse such as emotional, financial, sexual, self-neglect, domestic abuse, modern slavery, organisational, discriminatory as well as physical abuse.

8. Scams only happen online.

Myth: Scams can happen in many ways such as on the doorstep, via phone messages and calls, post and via email.

9. Domestic abuse always involves physical violence.

Myth: No, domestic abuse can be emotional and psychological abuse, controlling and coercive behaviour, financial abuse, harassment, stalking, abuse on-line and sexual violence.

10. All couples argue; it's not domestic abuse, it's just a normal relationship.

Myth: No, abuse and disagreement are not the same things. Different opinions are fine and healthy, but abuse is not a disagreement-it is the use of physical, sexual, emotional violence or threats in order to govern and control another person's thoughts and actions. For example, a wife, under carer strain, looking after her husband with dementia may withhold fluids from him to reduce continence issues.

11. Adult Social Care only safeguard older people.

Myth: No, adult social care support adults at risk to keep safe from 18 onwards and nearly a third of those at risk of abuse last year in Cheshire East were between the ages of 18-64.

12. Once a concern has been reported to the Local Authority, it is over to them to investigate.

Myth: Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and it is about working in partnership with the person who raised the concern and other people who can contribute, as well as the individual themselves.

13. Safeguarding is all about intervening where things have gone wrong.

Myth: No, safeguarding is wider than this and is about prevention of abuse and engaging with communities and people to spot signs and offer support at an early stage to minimise any likelihood of harm.