

## **Cancer Champions – Guidance for responding to Child or Adult Safeguarding concerns guidance**

Through your conversations in the community you may meet people you have concerns about, and that they may be a victim of abuse.

The following guidance explains what safeguarding means, different types of abuse and who to contact if you have concerns.

Although Cancer Champions work directly with Adults they are required to recognise and respond to abuse experienced by children and adults. In response adhere to the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board Procedures.

These can be accessed using the link below

<https://lrsb.org.uk/>

Cancer Champions are required to notify the appropriate Local Authority Child or Adult Social Care department where the potential abuse has taken place when:

- An adult with care and support needs discloses that they are subject to abuse
- An adults discloses that they are having difficulty caring for dependent children or adults and the Cancer Champion is concerned that this difficulty includes the abuse of the dependant individual
- An adult directly discloses that they have harmed a dependent child or adult

The contact details to notify the 3 Local Authority Social Care departments are detailed below.

If a Cancer Champion is concerned that a child or adult is in immediate danger, they are required to call the Police: 999

### **What is safeguarding?**

Safeguarding means protecting a person's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect. All Cancer Champions should have an awareness of the different types of child and adult abuse and should report concerns to the appropriate place.

Some people living with cancer may be described as a 'vulnerable adult'. A vulnerable adult is someone who may be in need of care because of a physical, learning or other disability, or because of their age or an illness. This definition also applies to an adult who is unable to take care of him or herself properly, or who is unable to protect him or herself from significant harm or exploitation. Some groups of people are particularly vulnerable to harm and exploitation and it is important that their needs are carefully considered – these include:

- those with disabilities
- asylum seekers
- victims of domestic abuse
- those who may be singled out due to their religion or ethnicity

- those who may be exposed to violent extremism.

### **Definitions of harm - Vulnerable adults**

Safeguarding means protecting the adult's right to live in safety and free from abuse and neglect and promoting the adult's wellbeing. Safeguarding duties apply to an adult at risk as defined in Section 42 of The Care Act 2014 which is:

- A. has needs for care and support (whether or not the authority is meeting any of those needs)
- B. is experiencing, or at risk of abuse and neglect
- C. as a result of their needs for care and support unable to protect themselves from the abuse or neglect or risk of it

### **What is physical harm?**

Physical harm is any physical contact that results in discomfort, pain or injury. Examples of physical harm include:

- assault, rough handling, hitting, slapping, punching, pushing, pinching, shaking, bruising or scalding
- exposure to excessive heat or cold
- a failure to treat sores or wounds
- inappropriate use of medication (e.g. under- or overuse of medication, or the use of un-prescribed medication)
- the use of inappropriate sanctions
- the unlawful or inappropriate use of restraint or physical interventions
- the deprivation of liberty.

### **What is sexual harm and exploitation?**

Examples of sexual harm and exploitation can include the direct or indirect involvement of the vulnerable adult in sexual activity or relationships that:

- they do not want or have not consented to
- they cannot understand, and cannot consent to, since they lack the mental capacity\*
- they have been coerced into because the other person is in a position of trust, power or authority, e.g. a care worker.

\*For more information on Mental Capacity visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/social-care-and-support-guide/making-decisions-for-someone-else/mental-capacity-act/>

Sexual harm can involve bruising or injury to the anal, genital or abdominal area, and the transmission of STD. It also includes inappropriate touching. Being forced to watch sexual activity is also a form of sexual exploitation.

### **What is psychological and emotional harm?**

This is behaviour that causes mental distress or has a harmful effect on an individual's emotional health and development. It can include:

- mocking, coercing, bullying, verbal attacks, intimidation or harassment

- demeaning, disrespectful, humiliating, racist, sexist or sarcastic comments, shouting, swearing or name-calling
- excessive or unwanted familiarity
- the denial of basic human and civil rights such as self-expression, privacy and dignity
- negating the right of the vulnerable adult to make choices
- undermining the individual's self-esteem
- isolation and over-dependence that has a harmful effect on the person's emotional health, development or well-being
- the use of inflexible regimes and lack of choice.

### **What is neglect?**

Neglect occurs when a person's well-being is impaired because his or her care or social needs are not met. Examples of neglect include:

- the failure to allow access to appropriate health, social care and educational services
- the failure to provide adequate nutrition, hydration or heating, or access to appropriate medication
- ignoring medical or physical needs, e.g. untreated weight loss, or a lack of care that results in pressure sores or uncharacteristic problems with continence
- poor hygiene, e.g. lack of general cleanliness or soiled clothes not being changed
- the failure to address the vulnerable individual's requests.

### **Neglect can be intentional or unintentional. Intentional neglect can include:**

- wilfully failing to provide care
- wilfully preventing the vulnerable adult from getting the care they need
- being reckless about the consequences of the person not getting the care they need.

### **Unintentional neglect can include:**

- a carer failing to meet the needs of the vulnerable adult because they do not understand their needs
- a carer lacking knowledge about the services that are available
- a carer's own needs preventing them from being able to give the care the person needs
- an individual being unaware of, or lacking an understanding of, the possible effect on the vulnerable adult of a lack of action.

### **Discrimination**

Discrimination exists when values, beliefs or culture result in a misuse of power, or the denial of rightful opportunities, so causing harm. Any psychological abuse that is racist, sexist, or linked to a person's sexuality, disability, religion, ethnic origin, gender, culture, or age, is discriminatory.

### **What is Institutional harm?**

Examples of institutional harm can include:

- an observed lack of dignity and respect in the care setting

- the enforcement of rigid routines
- processes and tasks being organised to meet the needs of staff rather than those in their care
- disrespectful language and attitudes.

### **What is financial harm?**

Financial harm is the use of a person's property, assets, income, funds or other resources without their informed consent or authorisation. It includes:

- theft
- fraud
- exploitation
- unauthorised withdrawals of funds from an account
- undue pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions
- the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits
- the misuse of an enduring power of attorney, or a lasting power of attorney, or an appointeeship.

Domestic violence and self-harm should also be considered as possible indicators of, and/or contributory factors to, harm or abuse.

### **Definitions of Child Abuse and Neglect**

Reference: Chapter 1 : Leicester and the Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Partnerships Procedures

**Abuse:** A form of maltreatment of a child. Somebody may abuse or neglect a child by inflicting harm or by failing to act to prevent harm. Children may be abused in a family or in an institutional or community setting by those known to them or, more rarely, by others. Abuse can take place wholly online, or technology may be used to facilitate offline abuse. Children may be abused by an adult or adults or another child or children.

**Physical Abuse:** Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a child;

**Emotional Abuse:** Emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent effects on the child's emotional development, and may involve:

- Conveying to children that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person;
- Not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate;

- Imposing age or developmentally inappropriate expectations on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction;
- Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another e.g. where there is domestic abuse;
- Serious bullying (including cyberbullying);
- Causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger;
- Exploiting and corrupting children.

Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

**Sexual Abuse:** Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (for example rape or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing.

Sexual abuse may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at or in the production of sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways or grooming a child in preparation for abuse. Sexual abuse can take place online, and technology can be used to facilitate offline abuse. Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.

In addition; Sexual abuse includes abuse of children through sexual exploitation which occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.

- A child under the age of 13 is not legally capable of consenting to sex (it is statutory rape) or any other type of sexual touching;
- Sexual activity with a child under 16 is also an offence;
- It is an offence for a person to have a sexual relationship with a 16 or 17 year old if they hold a position of trust or authority in relation to them;
- Where sexual activity with a 16 or 17 year old does not result in an offence being committed, it may still result in harm, or the likelihood of harm being suffered;
- Non-consensual sex is rape whatever the age of the victim; and

- If the victim is incapacitated through drink or drugs, or the victim or their family has been subject to violence or the threat of it, they cannot be considered to have given true consent; therefore offences may have been committed;

- Child sexual exploitation is therefore potentially a child protection issue for all children under the age of 18 years and not just those in a specific age group.

**Neglect:** Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development.

Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance misuse, maternal mental ill health or learning difficulties or a cluster of such issues. Where there is domestic abuse towards a carer, the needs of the child may be neglected.

Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent failing to:

- Provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- Protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- Ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers);
- Ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment.

It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional, social and educational needs.

These definitions are used when determining significant harm and children can be affected by combinations of maltreatment and abuse, which can be impacted on by for example domestic abuse in the household or a cluster of problems faced by the adults.

In addition, research analysing Serious Case Reviews has demonstrated a significant prevalence of domestic abuse in the history of families with children who are subject of Child Protection Plans. Children can be affected by seeing, hearing and living with domestic abuse as well as being caught up in any incidents directly, whether to protect someone or as a target. It should also be noted that the age group of 16 and 17 year olds have been found in recent studies to be increasingly affected by domestic abuse in their peer relationships.

## Domestic Abuse

It should therefore be considered in responding to concerns that the Home Office Definition of domestic violence and abuse is as follows:

"Any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence and abuse between those aged 16 or over, who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender and sexuality.

This can encompass, but is not limited to, the following types of abuse:

- Psychological;
- Physical;
- Sexual;
- Financial;
- Emotional.

Controlling behaviour is: a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

Coercive behaviour is: an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim".

In addition, Working Together to Safeguard Children includes the concept of Contextual Safeguarding which recognises that, as well as threats to the welfare of children from within their families, children may be vulnerable to abuse or exploitation from outside their families. These extra-familial threats might arise at school and other educational establishments, from within peer groups, or more widely from within the wider community and/or online. These threats can take a variety of different forms and children can be vulnerable to multiple threats, including: exploitation by criminal gangs and organised crime groups such as county lines; trafficking, online abuse; sexual exploitation and the influences of extremism leading to radicalisation.

Remember:

- **Cancer Champions should never offer clinical advice – if in doubt always signpost to the GP**
- **Cancer Champions should never offer support in people's homes – always meet in public places for conversations about cancer.**

If you are concerned about an adult (and they are not in immediate danger but are at risk of being abused) you should contact:

**If the person lives within Leicester City:**

**Adults**

Telephone: **0116 454 1004** (Monday to Thursday 8.30am to 5pm, Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm)

Emergency number: **0116 255 1606**

**Children 24 hour duty and advice line**

**Telephone: 0116 454 1004**

**If the person lives within Leicestershire (County)**

**Adults**

Adult Social Care Customer Service Centre on **0116 305 0004** (Monday to Thursday, 8.30am to 5pm, Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm)

Emergency Duty Team on **0116 255 1606** (Evenings, weekends, Bank Holidays)

**Children 24 hour duty and advice line**

**0116 305 0005**

**If the person lives in Rutland**

**Adults**

Telephone: 01572 758 341

Children

01572 758407

Out of hours: 0116 305 0005

**If a person is in immediate danger or a crime  
is being committed you should call 999 straight away.**