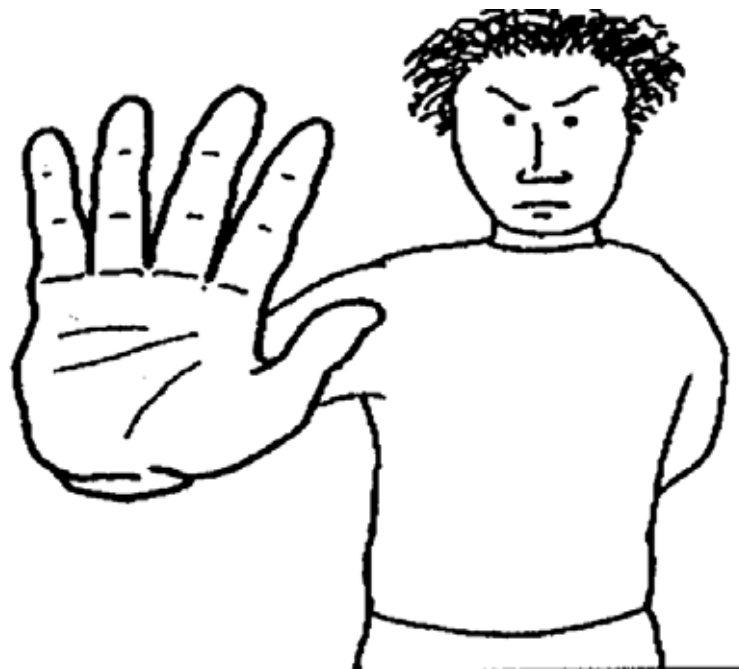


# Safeguarding Adults with Learning Disabilities



Keeping People Safe

Easy Read Summary

## What is Safeguarding Adults with Learning Disabilities?

**Safeguarding Adults with Learning Disabilities** is an information pack to help Partnership Boards work well to stop abuse from happening and help people who have been abused.



**Safeguarding** means making sure you are safe from abuse and neglect, and are able to be independent and make choices.

**What is abuse?** Abuse is when someone hurts you or treats you badly. Abuse is always wrong. There are different kinds of abuse.

**Physical abuse** - when someone hurts you, for example hitting, kicking, biting.



**Sexual abuse** - when someone touches your body or your private parts in ways you do not like or want. This includes kissing you, making you touch them, having sex with you when you do not want them to.



**Emotional abuse** - when people talk to you in unkind ways. For example, teasing, threatening, swearing, ignoring you, shouting, putting you down and treating you like a child.



**Financial abuse** - when people take or control your money or things which belong to you.



**Neglect** - this is when people who are supposed to help you don't look after you properly. For example, not giving you enough food, not keeping you warm and safe, not giving you medication or taking you to the doctors if you are ill.



**Discrimination** - is when people treat you badly or unfairly because of the colour of your skin, your religion, your disability or because you are Lesbian or Gay.



Abuse is always wrong and should not happen.

If these things happen to you or your friends, you should tell someone you trust. You could tell:

- A member of staff
- Someone in your family
- A nurse or social worker
- A manager
- A friend or neighbour
- An advocate or advocacy group



## Part 1 - Who is working to help keep people safe? What are they doing to help?

**Social Services and Health Commissioners (like contracts managers)** - they plan, pay for and commission services which offer good support and help keep people healthy and safe from abuse.



**People who provide services** - like residential homes, day centres and respite services. They must work to keep people safe and well. They should also report any possible abuse to social services. They should have a policy about abuse – you can ask to see this.



**People who offer health and social care support** - like community nurses, social workers, psychologists and personal assistants. They can help to identify people who are at risk of being abused and services where people are not safe.



**People who investigate reports of abuse** - when abuse is reported, professionals try to find out more about what has happened. They also try to protect people so that the abuse does not happen again. Social Services are responsible for making sure that this happens.



**The Police** - some kinds of abuse are also crimes (for example sexual abuse, stealing). These things should be reported to the police, who may carry out an investigation.



**Employers** – should make sure they do not give jobs to people who might hurt or abuse people with learning disabilities. They carry out checks, (for example CRB or Criminal Record Bureau checks) to find out whether new staff have abused people in the past.



**People who inspect services** - the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) and the Healthcare Commission are responsible for inspecting services. Their job is to make sure that services offer good, safe care and support.



**People who work to protect in Safeguarding Partnerships or Adult Protection Committees** - their job is to make sure all services and staff have good policies to protect and help people who have been abused.



**Families and friends** - they are good at noticing when people might have been abused or are in services where they are not safe.



## Part 2 - What can Partnership Boards do to help protect people from abuse?



**Make sure everyone thinks about abuse and protection. By**

- Regularly talking about abuse and safety at meetings
- Reporting concerns about abuse



**Support people with learning disabilities and their families to report abuse. By**

- Making sure they get information about abuse which they can understand
- Making sure that Advocacy services and Self-Advocacy groups are available.



**Make sure that all staff and personal assistants get training about abuse and protection.**



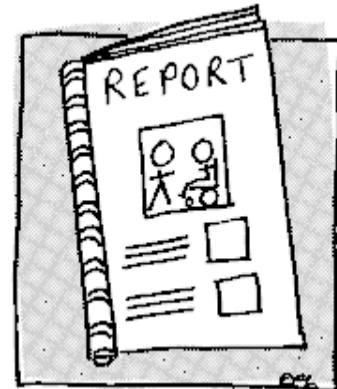
Make sure there are good quality support services. By

- Making sure the Partnership Board has a Quality Group which monitors and checks how good services are
- Making sure that Person Centred approaches are used



Learn from abuse which has already happened.

This includes learning from reports about abuse in Cornwall, Sutton and Merton and the Healthcare Commission's National Audit of Services for People with Learning Disabilities.



## Part 3 - What more can everyone do to protect people? Ideas and suggestions

**Services and people with learning disabilities should give good information and training to staff.**

This means;

- Services making sure that staff have good training
- People with learning disabilities and advocacy groups being involved in staff training
- People with learning disabilities making accessible information for staff and supporters about good ways of working and how they like to be treated



**People with learning disabilities, professionals and families should check up on services and find out whether they give good care and support.**

This means;

- Everyone making sure they know how to recognise services where people might be abused
- Professionals involving people with learning disabilities in checking services



**Services should make sure people get help to complain.**

This means;

- Services giving people accessible information about how and where to complain
- Services making sure that it is easy for people to complain and that people get an answer when they complain





Professionals and staff should make sure that people with learning disabilities can speak up and are listened to.

This means;

- Making sure there are Advocacy services and Self-Advocacy groups in every area
- Services making sure that staff are good at communicating with people with learning disabilities
- Professionals and staff making sure people with learning disabilities have the chance to make choices



All managers should make sure their service and staff are doing a good job.

This means;

- Managers challenging poor staff attitudes and disrespectful behaviours
- Managers making sure people's money is looked after properly
- Managers working together with people with learning disabilities, advocacy groups and families to think about how to make services better
- Making sure people with learning disabilities are involved in choosing new staff



**All services should have good policies about abuse and take action when people are abused.**

This means;

- Professionals and families making sure they know what to do if a person is abused
- Professionals and staff making sure they know how to support people who have been abused
- Services making sure people with learning disabilities get information about abuse which they can understand



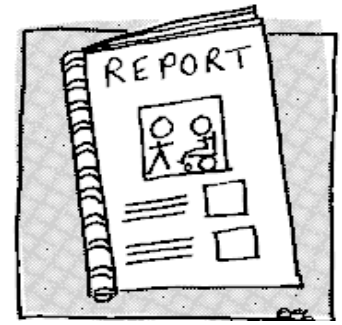
**Professionals should plan services carefully.**

This means;

- People who pay for services making sure they choose services which keep people safe
- Professionals making sure people get good assessments and care plans
- Professionals making sure that people with learning disabilities live with people who they like and feel safe with
- People who plan services making sure that counselling and therapy are available for people who have been abused



**Safeguarding Adults with Learning Disabilities** - This is an easy read summary of the report. If you would like to read the full report you can get a copy from your Partnership Board.



## Thank you

Many people and organisations shared their ideas to help produce this information. We would especially like to thank York People First who helped to write this easy read summary.



## Picture credits

The pictures used in this report were taken from:

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People First - Access 2 Pictures



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## Further information about abuse

If you or a friend are worried about abuse, there are people you can talk to who can help.

In your area you can contact -



*(Support workers please put contact details for local agencies who can offer support, guidance and advice regarding abuse, in the box above)*

There are also organisations which can help people who are worried about abuse. If you want to talk to someone on the phone you can phone:

- Respond - telephone 0808 808 0700
- Voice UK - telephone 0845 122 8695

