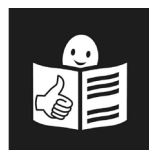


Act against harm

adult support
and protection



This leaflet is about the kinds of harm that can happen to adults.

Harm can happen to adults anywhere in Scotland. Some adults who are disabled, ill or elderly can be more at risk of harm.

There is a law to help adults who are at risk of harm. It is called The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007. This law says that if a council thinks an adult at risk is being harmed in any way, they must look into it.

Your council has a team of people who know a lot about harm and adults at risk. People from this team will help an adult who is being harmed. They can work with the adult's family too.

If you or someone you know is being harmed, phone your local council Adult Protection Team or visit our website at **www.infoscotland.com/actagainstharm**



■ Neglect.....	Pages 4 and 5
■ Psychological harm	Pages 6 and 7
■ Sexual harm	Pages 8 and 9
■ Physical harm.....	Pages 10 and 11
■ Financial harm.....	Pages 12 and 13



Neglect

Neglect is when you do not look after yourself or you are not looked after properly. It can mean that you do not get enough food, or the care or medical treatment that you need. It can mean that you are not warm enough or you have no privacy.

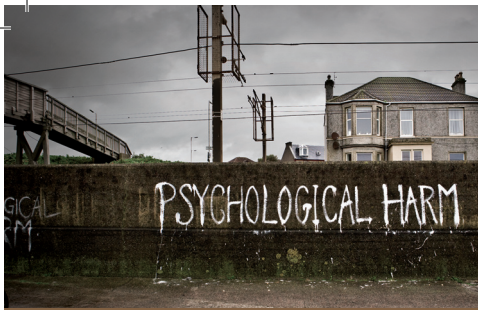
Neglect can happen to anyone. Adults can neglect themselves or they can be neglected by someone else.



Here is one person's story

I was worried about Jim. He lives near me. He is old and he walks with a stick. Jim's wife died and Jim stopped going out. I do not know how he did his shopping. He never had any visitors. He just sat at his window.

I called my local council Adult Protection Team to say that I was worried about Jim. Someone came to visit Jim and now he has a home help.



Psychological harm

Psychological harm is when someone picks on you or says things that make you feel scared. It can also be when someone does not talk to you, pretends you are not there or tells you what to do all the time. Psychological harm is bullying.

Psychological harm can happen to anyone. It can happen anywhere. All kinds of people can harm adults in this way.



Here is one person's story

My dad has always been hard on me. He always shouted at me when I was a child. He said I was rubbish at reading and writing. I'm 25 now, but he still says nasty things to me.

I called my local council Adult Protection Team. The person I spoke to listened to me and helped me to think about what I wanted to do. I am happier now.



Sexual harm

Sexual harm is when someone makes you do something sexual that you do not want to do or touches you in a way that does not feel right.

Sexual harm can happen to anyone. It can happen anywhere. All kinds of people can harm adults in this way.



Here is one person's story

I am 18 now, and I was brought up in care. I know this man. At first, he was nice. He bought me things. But then he started to make me do things I did not want to do when I stayed at his flat. It made me feel dirty and horrible.

I called my local council Adult Protection Team. The person I spoke to listened to me and gave me help and support. I am safe now.



Physical harm

Physical harm is when someone hurts you on purpose. It includes hitting, punching, biting or shaking you.

Physical harm can happen to anyone. It can happen anywhere. All kinds of people can harm adults in this way.



Here is one person's story

Mum and Dad have been married for 50 years. They have grandchildren. But Dad is ill now, and Mum cares for him. I think it is too much for her. Dad dropped something and Mum pushed him over and hurt him.

I called my local council Adult Protection Team. The person I spoke to got help and support for Mum and Dad.



Financial harm

Financial harm is when someone tries to make you give them money or other things that are yours. It is financial harm if someone tries to make you change your will.

Financial harm can happen to anyone. It can happen anywhere. All kinds of people can harm adults in this way.



Here is one person's story

My daughter owed people money. At first, I gave her money to help out. But she kept asking for more. I had to say no. Then she took money out my purse. And she stole some of my jewellery and sold it. Then she took my cashline card and made me tell her my number. I was really upset.

I spoke to someone in my local council Adult Protection Team. A woman came to talk to me. She also spoke to my daughter and got someone to help her with her money problems.

Act against harm

If you are being harmed or you know an adult who is being harmed, please contact your local council and ask for the Adult Protection Team. You can get details on the website:

www.infoscotland.com/actagainstharm

Notes



Act against harm

adult support
and protection



Further copies of this booklet are available for you to download at:
<http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Health/care/adult-care-and-support/legislation/Resources>



This leaflet was produced by ENABLE Scotland's Accessible Information Unit.