



Public Protection



DEFINITIONS OF HARM

Financial

This includes theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure to hand or sign over money or property, misuse of welfare benefits, being scammed by rogue traders, online/postal scams. In the context of domestic abuse, it is a form of coercive control, by restricting access to money, controlling how it is spent, creating debt in the victim's name.

Domestic Abuse

Impact on Adults

Domestic abuse is a pattern of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and/or violent behaviour, including sexual violence, by a partner or ex-partner. The abuse can be committed in the home or elsewhere including online. It is men who predominantly carry out such abuse, with 1 in 3 women experiencing physical or sexual violence.

Impact on Children

1 in 7 children/young people under the age of 18 will have lived with domestic abuse at some point in their childhood. A child's emotional and psychological wellbeing will be affected even if they do not witness the abuse, with both short and long term potential impacts.

Emotional/ Psychological

Emotional abuse is persistent emotional neglect or ill-treatment causing severe and lasting effects on a child's emotional development, and on an adult's psychological wellbeing. It is present to some extent in all other forms of abuse but can also occur independently.

Self-Neglect

Self-neglect occurs through lack of self-care (for example, neglect of personal hygiene, nutrition, hydration and/or health) and/or lack of care of the domestic environment (for example, squalor or hoarding). The risks to health or wellbeing are extreme and the person who is neglecting themselves are not able to take action to mitigate those risks.

Child Sexual Abuse/ Exploitation

Child Sexual Abuse involves a child under 16 in any activity for the sexual gratification of another person. Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening.

Child Sexual Exploitation is a form of Child Sexual Abuse. It occurs when an individual or group uses their power to coerce, manipulate or deceive someone under 18 into sexual activity in exchange for something the victim wants or needs.

Harmful sexual behaviour is developmentally inappropriate sexual behaviour displayed by children and young people which is abusive or harmful.

Physical Abuse

Causing any type of physical harm to someone. This can, for example, include hitting, slapping, pushing, shaking, burning, poisoning/misusing medication. All forms of physical punishment of children are against the law in Scotland regardless of personal or cultural attitudes towards reasonable discipline.

Neglect

Is the persistent failure to meet someone's basic physical and/or psychological needs. It can result in the serious impairment of a child's health or development. In both children and adults, it can include ignoring medical or physical care needs or failure to provide access to health and support services.

Sexual Abuse

Involves forcing someone to take part in sexual acts regardless of whether or not it is claimed that the victim consented, could not consent or was pressured into consenting. It can range from inappropriate and unwanted physical contact, to rape or sexual assault. Sexual abuse can also involve non-contact activities. These may include children or adults looking at indecent images, making them watch sexual activities or involving them in their production.

Harmful Cultural Practices

Harmful cultural practices are forms of violence which have been committed primarily against women and girls in certain communities and societies for so long that they are considered, or presented by perpetrators, as part of accepted cultural practice. Cultural considerations and sensitivities should not override the need of professionals to take action to protect a child at risk, or assess if an adult is at risk of harm.

Female Genital Mutilation

Female genital mutilation is an extreme form of gender-based abuse, involving partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or other female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Forced Marriage

Forced marriage is where one or both people do not or cannot consent to marriage, and undue pressure or coercion is used.

Honour Based Abuse

Honour based abuse refers to violence, threats or coercion perpetrated by a family, extended family or community, motivated by a perceived need to restore honour in the community which has presumed to have been lost through the victim's behaviour.

