

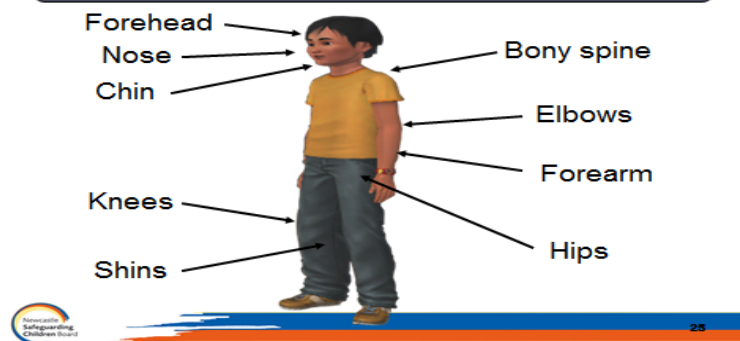
## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT\*

### Possible signs of physical abuse

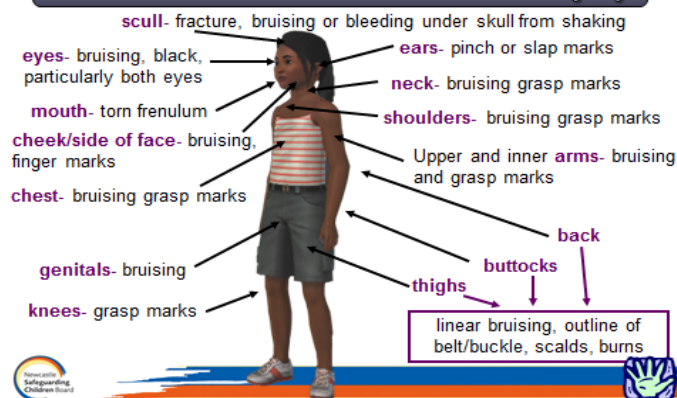
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|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unexplained, untreated or unusual injuries: bruises, burns, scalds, bite marks, particularly if frequent</li> <li>• Improbable excuses given to explain injuries or refusal to discuss injuries</li> <li>• Admission of punishment which appears excessive</li> <li>• Fear of parents being contacted</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Withdrawal from physical contact</li> <li>• Arms and legs kept covered in hot weather</li> <li>• Fear of returning home</li> <li>• Self destructive tendencies</li> <li>• Aggression towards others</li> <li>• Running away</li> <li>• Bald patches</li> </ul> |
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- Physical abuse can happen in any family, but children may be more at risk if their parents have problems with drugs, alcohol and mental health or if they live in a home where domestic abuse happens.
- Babies and disabled children also have a higher risk of suffering physical abuse.
- Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.
- Physical abuse can lead directly to neurological damage, physical injuries, disability or - at the extreme - death.
- Harm may be caused to children both by the abuse itself, and by the abuse taking place in a wider family or institutional context, (e.g. bullying) of conflict and aggression.
- Physical abuse has been linked to aggressive behaviour in children, emotional and behavioural problems, and educational difficulties.

### Common sites for accidental injury



### Common sites for non-accidental injury



## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT\*

<b>Possible signs of sexual abuse</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sudden changes in behaviour or educational performance</li> <li>• Chronic throat infections and sexually transmitted diseases</li> <li>• Displays of affection in a sexual way</li> <li>• Tendency to cling or need constant reassurance</li> <li>• Tendency to cry easily</li> <li>• Regression to younger behaviour, e.g. thumb sucking, playing with discarded toys, “baby” behaviour</li> <li>• Complaints of genital itching or pain</li> <li>• Fear of undressing for sport or during hot weather</li> <li>• Use of sexual language, display of knowledge or interest in sexual acts inappropriate to their age (i.e. under 18s)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Distrust of a familiar adult, or anxiety about being left with a relative, baby sitter, lodger</li> <li>• Unexplained gifts or money</li> <li>• Depression or withdrawal</li> <li>• Apparent secrecy</li> <li>• Wetting or soiling day or night - after being dry for some time</li> <li>• Sleep disturbance or nightmares</li> <li>• Eating disorders</li> <li>• Self-harm, attempted suicide, frequently running away</li> <li>• Unexplained pregnancy</li> <li>• Phobias or panic attacks</li> <li>• Talk of “cutting” or “being cut” (FGM)</li> <li>• Children who ask others to behave sexually or play sexual games</li> </ul>
<p><b>But not all sexually abused children exhibit signs of disturbance. Some will be “model” pupils/students.</b></p>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual abuse now includes female genital mutilation (“FGM”) and grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet) – and can indicate domestic abuse.</li> <li>• Many children and young people who are victims of sexual abuse do not recognise themselves as such. A child may not understand what is happening and may not even understand that it is wrong. A proportion of adults who sexually abuse children have themselves been sexually abused as children.</li> <li>• Sexual abuse can have a long-term impact on mental health.</li> </ul>	
<b>Possible signs of child sexual exploitation (NB: could also apply to vulnerable adults)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children who appear with unexplained gifts or new possessions;</li> <li>• Children who associate with other young people involved in exploitation</li> <li>• Children who have older boyfriends or girlfriends</li> <li>• Children who suffer from sexually transmitted infections or become pregnant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Children who suffer from changes in emotional well-being</li> <li>• Children who misuse drugs and alcohol</li> <li>• Children who go missing for periods of time or regularly come home late</li> <li>• Children who regularly miss school or education or don’t take part in education.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Child sexual exploitation involves sexually exploitation for money, power or status. It can involve violent, humiliating and degrading sexual assaults.</li> <li>• In some cases, young people are persuaded or forced into exchanging sexual activity for money, drugs, gifts, affection or status. <u>Consent cannot be given, even where a child may believe they are voluntarily engaging in sexual activity with the person who is exploiting them.</u></li> <li>• Child sexual exploitation doesn't always involve physical contact and can happen online. A significant number of children who are victims of sexual exploitation go missing from home, care and education at some point.</li> </ul>	

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT\*

<b>Possible signs of emotional or psychological abuse</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Physical, mental and emotional development delay</li> <li>● Admission of punishment which appears excessive</li> <li>● Withdrawn, fearful or anxious about doing something wrong</li> <li>● Over-reaction to mistakes</li> <li>● Continual self disapproval</li> <li>● Sudden speech disorders</li> <li>● Fear of new situations.</li> <li>● Inappropriate emotional response Behaviour such as rocking, hair twisting, thumb sucking</li> <li>● Evidence of bullying (including cyber-bullying)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Fear of parents being contacted</li> <li>● Extremes of passivity or aggression</li> <li>● Drug/solvent abuse</li> <li>● Self-harm</li> <li>● Running away</li> <li>● Compulsive stealing, scavenging</li> <li>● Parents or carers who withdraw their attention from their child, giving the child the 'cold shoulder'</li> <li>● Parents or carers blaming their problems on their child</li> <li>● Parents or carers who humiliate their child, e.g. by name-calling or making negative comparisons</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● There is increasing evidence of the adverse long-term consequences for children's development where they have been subjected to sustained emotional abuse.</li> <li>● Emotional abuse has an important impact on a developing child's mental health, behaviour, and self-esteem. It can be especially damaging in infancy.</li> <li>● Underlying emotional abuse may be as important, if not more so, than other more visible forms of abuse in terms of its impact on the child.</li> <li>● Domestic violence, adult mental health problems and parental substance misuse may be features in families where children are exposed to such abuse.</li> </ul>	
<b>Possible signs of domestic violence or abuse</b>	
<p>Domestic violence or abuse can be characterised by any of the indicators of abuse outlined in this briefing relating to psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional.</p> <p>Domestic violence and abuse includes any incident or pattern of incidents of <u>controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour, violence or abuse</u> between those aged 16 or over who are or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. It also includes so called 'honour'-based violence, female genital mutilation and forced marriage.</p>	
<p>Coercive or controlling behaviour is a core part of domestic violence. Coercive behaviour can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation</li> <li>● harming, punishing, or frightening the person</li> <li>● isolating the person from sources of support</li> <li>● exploitation of resources or money</li> <li>● preventing the person from escaping abuse</li> <li>● regulating everyday behaviour.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Low self-esteem</li> <li>● Feeling the abuse is their fault</li> <li>● Physical evidence of violence such as bruising, cuts, broken bones</li> <li>● Verbal abuse and humiliation in front of others</li> <li>● Fear of outside intervention</li> <li>● Damage to home or property</li> <li>● Isolation – not seeing friends and family</li> <li>● Limited access to money</li> </ul>

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<b>Possible signs of neglect (including self-neglect)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constant hunger or tiredness</li> <li>• Poor personal hygiene/dental decay or basic healthcare</li> <li>• Poor or inadequate state of clothing</li> <li>• Emaciation (abnormally thin)</li> <li>• Untreated medical/speech/hearing problems or injuries</li> <li>• Living in a home that is indisputably dirty, unsafe or dangerous, i.e. around drugs, alcohol or violence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Frequent lateness or absence from school</li> <li>• Lack of appropriate boundaries</li> <li>• Lack of supervision/safety</li> <li>• Destructive tendencies</li> <li>• Low self-esteem</li> <li>• Neurotic behaviour</li> <li>• No social relationships</li> <li>• Running away</li> <li>• Compulsive stealing or scavenging</li> </ul>
<b>Possible signs of self-neglect – as above and/or...</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neglecting personal hygiene, health or surroundings</li> <li>• Inability to avoid self-harm</li> <li>• Failure to seek help or access services to meet health and social care needs e.g. taking medication, treating illness/injury</li> <li>• Unable or unwilling to manage one's personal affairs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Risks to personal health and safety</li> <li>• Lack of essential food, clothing or shelter</li> <li>• Malnutrition and/or dehydration</li> <li>• Living in squalid or unsanitary conditions</li> <li>• Neglecting household maintenance</li> <li>• Hoarding</li> <li>• Keeping animals in inappropriate conditions</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neglect (including self-neglect) is not always straightforward to identify.</li> <li>• Neglect may occur if a parent/carer becomes physically or mentally unable to care for a child. A parent/carer may be addicted to alcohol or drugs, which could impair their ability to keep a child safe or result in them prioritising buying drugs, or alcohol, over food, clothing or warmth for the child.</li> <li>• Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal drug or alcohol abuse.</li> <li>• Persistent and/or severe neglect is associated with major impairment of health, growth and intellectual development and long-term difficulties with social functioning, relationships and educational progress. In extreme cases, it can result in death.</li> </ul>	
<b>Possible signs of financial or material abuse (normally connected more with adults than children)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theft</li> <li>• Exploitation</li> <li>• Pressure in connection with wills, property or inheritance or financial transactions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fraud</li> <li>• Forgery</li> <li>• Blackmail</li> <li>• Misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A wide range of people are vulnerable to financial crime. The Office of Fair Trading's (OFT) report on <i>The psychology of scams</i> (2009) implies that there is no single risk factor and, in fact, at one point or another, everyone is vulnerable to a persuasive approach.</li> <li>• A perpetrator may be a family member, friend, care worker/professional or a stranger who has chosen to target a vulnerable adult. There is a growing trend of MATE crime, where perpetrators deliberately befriend individuals in order to gain their trust and subsequently commit financial abuse.</li> <li>• Abuse can range from not acting in the person's best interests, to persuasion or coercion in respect of gifts or loans, misappropriation of property or allowances, theft, rogue trading, or mass-marketing fraud.</li> </ul>	

## SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT\*

<b>Possible signs of discriminatory abuse</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unequal treatment based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation (known as <a href="#">‘protected characteristics’ under the Equality Act 2010</a>)</li> <li>• Verbal abuse, derogatory remarks or inappropriate use of language related to a protected characteristic</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Harassment or deliberate exclusion on the grounds of a protected characteristic</li> <li>• Denying basic rights to healthcare, education, employment, criminal justice relating to a protected characteristic</li> <li>• Substandard service provision relating to a protected characteristic (e.g. not taking account of the person’s individual needs)</li> </ul>
<p>People affected by discriminatory abuse can appear withdrawn and isolated, with expressions of anger, frustration, fear or anxiety</p>	
<b>Possible signs of organisational or institutional abuse (more commonly found in care homes etc)</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discouraging visits or the involvement of relatives or friends/absence of visitors</li> <li>• Not providing adequate food and drink, or assistance with eating</li> <li>• Absence of individual care plans</li> <li>• Run-down/overcrowded establishment</li> <li>• Misuse of medication</li> <li>• Insufficient staff or high turnover resulting in poor quality care</li> <li>• Inappropriate use of restraints</li> <li>• Lack of respect for dignity and privacy</li> <li>• Failure to provide care with dentures, spectacles or hearing aids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Failure to respond to complaints or allegations of abuse appropriately</li> <li>• Interference with personal correspondence or communication</li> <li>• Abusive and disrespectful attitudes towards people using the service</li> <li>• Lack of personal clothing and possessions and communal use of personal items</li> <li>• Poor record-keeping/ missing documents</li> <li>• Public discussion of personal matters</li> <li>• Unnecessary exposure during bathing or using the toilet</li> <li>• Failure to manage residents with abusive behaviour</li> </ul>
<b>Possible signs of Modern Slavery</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human trafficking</li> <li>• Forced labour</li> <li>• Domestic servitude</li> <li>• Sexual exploitation, such as escort work, prostitution and pornography</li> <li>• Debt bondage – being forced to work to pay off debts that realistically they never will be able to</li> <li>• Signs of physical or emotional abuse</li> <li>• Isolation from the community, seeming under the control or influence of others</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appearing to be malnourished, unkempt or withdrawn</li> <li>• Living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation and or living and working at the same address</li> <li>• Lack of personal effects or identification documents</li> <li>• Always wearing the same clothes</li> <li>• Avoidance of eye contact, appearing frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers</li> <li>• Fear of law enforcers</li> </ul>

\*Sourced from Newcastle City Council School Improvement Service 2014 Training material, Newcastle Safeguarding Board 2014 Training material and “Assessment: financial crime against vulnerable adults” (Social Care Institute for Excellence, Nov 2011), Care Act 2014 and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015) statutory guidance