

Caring for Older Adults- Spotting the Signs of Domestic Abuse

What is domestic abuse?

Domestic abuse means an incident, or pattern of incidents of violence or abuse, by someone who is or has been an intimate partner or family member, regardless of gender or sexuality.

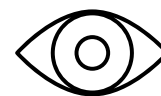


What could I do to help?

- If you work in people's homes, you can see the most personal parts of people's lives. You can develop strong and trusting relationships with the people you care for.
- You may see and hear things that no-one outside would
- You are part of the safeguarding network in Norfolk.
- You can recognise when something isn't right and take action to prevent and respond to abuse.

What am I looking out for? (this list is not exhaustive)

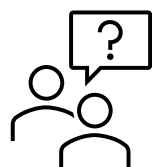
- Unexplained or unusual bruising or injuries – be curious: 'oh, that's a nasty looking bruise'.
- Carers appearing very stressed / tired – ask how they are doing.
- One person always talking over the other, or answering for them – listen to the voice of the cared for and the carer.
- Unusual or restrictive care practices – not letting someone have a drink because they will need help to get to the toilet.



What can I do?

- Check what your organisation's procedure is for reporting concerns and ensure that they are recorded according to your company policy.
- Look and listen – notice changes, in the person, the people they live with, their environment.
- Ask questions, be curious and interested in their lives.
- Be supportive – reassure the person if they tell you something that is worrying them, explain that services are there to help and support them.
- Think - Are there any children in the household? Or does the adult you support witness domestic abuse? Either may be harmed by this.
- Ask the person what they want to happen next – are they safe right now?
- You can give them information about local services if they want to make to make contact themselves.

What happens next?



- Domestic abuse responses and services are well maintained in Wigan and there is a list of local and national contacts below.
- The police will often be involved, especially when there is a high risk of harm and when there is a criminal allegation of abuse or neglect, officers are always focussed on working with and supporting the victim.

Local services

If anyone is at immediate risk of harm, phone the police on 999.

The silent solution: If you can't speak or make a sound when calling 999, listen to the operator's questions, then tap the handset. If prompted, press 55. Your call will be transferred to police who will know it's an emergency.

Wigan DIAS: 01942 311365, Mon to Fri, 7am to 7pm admin@diasdvc.org

Helplines:

Police Non-emergency 101

National Helpline 24hrs 0808 2000 247

Respect helpline for perpetrators 0808 802 4040

Learning from Adult Safeguarding Reviews- A key finding from Safeguarding Adult Reviews which have undertaken by WSAB has highlighted the need for professional curiosity. This is key in identifying different types of abuse and not taking things at face value, you can find further information [here](#).

With thanks to Norfolk SAB for the use of their resources.