



Child and Adult Protection is EVERYONE'S business



Everyone in the Scottish Borders has the right to live safe from abuse, harm and neglect.

You may see or hear something that makes you worry that a child or adult is being abused, harmed or neglected.

Telling someone about your worries can help to make sure that the person gets the right help, from the right people, to stay safe and well.

Children and adults can be harmed by anyone, anywhere.

Sometimes, people are harmed by strangers, but most people are harmed by someone they know and trust. This is most often a family member or friend, but it can be someone in another position of trust: a health, social care or education worker, or volunteer in a sports club, church or community group.

Spotting the signs

There are many signs that someone may be being abused or neglected. You might see something like:

- Someone whose physical appearance suggests they are not being cared for: inappropriate clothes for the weather, dirty or smelly, stealing or begging for food.
- A parent or carer who appears under the influence of alcohol or drugs to the extent that they would be unable to look after them: incoherent speech, staggering or falling over or unable to focus and concentrate.
- An unaccompanied child during school hours.
- A young person with an older adult behaving as though they are a “boyfriend” or “girlfriend”.

You can pass on your concerns, even if you are not sure.

Some of the ways people can be harmed

Physical abuse: hitting, pushing, shaking, rough moving and handling or forcible feeding.

Emotional abuse: bullying, name calling, threats, manipulation and humiliation.

Sexual abuse: forcing, manipulating or coercing someone into sexual activity, including sexual touching, rape, being made to watch pornography or sharing intimate images .

Financial abuse: use of someone’s financial resources without their consent, such as theft, scams, pressure around wills, coercing or manipulating someone into withdrawing money.

Neglect: failure to provide for someone’s basic physical, developmental or safety needs, such as food, shelter, medical care.

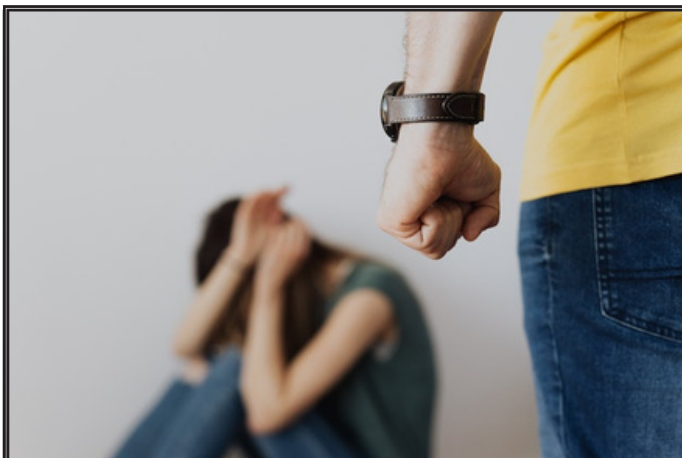
Children and adults can also be harmed through sexual or criminal exploitation. This might be an adult manipulating a young person into sexual activity by giving them money or gifts. Or it might be a dealer befriending a person with a learning disability and using their home to store or deal drugs.

All child and adult protection concerns in the Borders are looked into by Social Work. Sometimes the family may need some extra support to stay safe and well.

At other times, the person isn't safe and formal child or adult protection procedures are needed. It's important that you pass on the information you have, so that people can get the help they need.

If you work or volunteer for an organisation, tell the person responsible for adult and child protection. They will report your concerns to Social Work.

If that person is not available, or if you are a member of the public, use the phone numbers at the back of this booklet to report your concerns.



What has made you concerned?

Be as specific and factual as possible.

- What did you see?
- What did you hear?

What information do you have about the person you are worried about?

You might know:

- The name of the person you are worried about, their parents or other family members
- Where they live
- Where they came from or are going to
- A car registration number
- A description of the people involved.

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Concerned about a child?
Call Children and Families
Duty Social Work
01896 662787

Concerned about an adult?
Call the Council
0300 100 1800

Out of office hours?
Call the Social Work
Emergency Duty Team
01896 752111

Emergency, or don't know the
name of the adult or child?
Call the Police
101 or 999

