

7. What to do if you have concerns and further information:

If you believe an adult with care and support needs is at risk of abuse or neglect raise a concern by completing the [referral form](#) or contact Knowsley MASH team on Tel: 0151 443 2600.

If you believe a person is in immediate risk of harm, you should contact the police by ringing 999.

If you're in danger but you can't talk on the phone, you should still call 999, then [follow these instructions](#) for silent 999 call depending on whether you're calling from a mobile or a landline.

Further reading on abuse in own home:
[Safe Care at Home Review .pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

6. Difference between Carer Abuse and Domestic Abuse:

The statutory definition of [Domestic Abuse](#) states that 'a victim and alleged perpetrator must be "personally connected" i.e. that they are a partner/ex-partner or family member.

Therefore, People with care and support needs who are abused by a partner, ex-partner or family member, who is also providing their care, are protected by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 as they are 'personally connected' (Domestic Abuse Act 2021) and should be referred to the **Domestic Abuse Pathway**.

Victims of abuse by a person providing their care who is not "personally connected" to them, are protected by the Care Act 2014, (not the Domestic Abuse Act 2021) and should be referred to the Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).

5. Recognising abuse in own home:

In care relationships, deciding what is deliberate or accidental abuse and neglect may not be clear-cut. This makes abuse challenging to detect, report and investigate. Professionals may be unsure and the adult may not recognise themselves as a victim. This may be due to:

- Dependence on carer
- Trust in carer
- Manipulation/Grooming strategies
- Adult is unable to communicate without carer facilitation

Characteristics or conditions such as age, mental illness, disability, dementia or fluctuating capacity may also create barriers to identifying and reporting harm and abuse.

4. Neglect and Acts of Omission

Neglect is abuse by omission. It can include ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services.

This can include:

- Failure to give medication or allow medical care
- Failure to provide or allow access to food, shelter, clothing heating, stimulation and activity, personal care
- Failure to provide care in the way the person wants
- Failure to allow choice and preventing people from making their own decisions
- Failure to ensure appropriate privacy and dignity

7 MINUTE BRIEFING Abuse in Own Home



**KNOWSLEY
SAFEGUARDING
ADULTS BOARD**

PREVENTION THROUGH PARTNERSHIP



1. Who could abuse adults in own home?

Most adults at risk of abuse and neglect receive excellent care and support in their own homes from e.g.:

- **Informal carers - family, neighbours or friends**
- **Paid carers - employed care workers, personal assistants, and other paid individuals, in positions of trust**
- **Volunteers - individuals who provide care as part of a voluntary organisation**

This support is greatly valued and helps people to live more independent and fulfilling lives; unfortunately, sometimes there are issues of abuse and neglect from carers to adults who they care for.

2. Types of abuse in own home?

[Types of Abuse](#) in own homes can take many forms, including:

- physical abuse
- neglect/act of omission
- domestic abuse
- emotional
- financial
- sexual abuse

Statistics show that Physical Abuse and Neglect or Acts of omission are the highest categories of abuse in own homes in Knowsley (2022-23).

3. Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is deliberately hurting or injuring someone and can include:

- Hitting
- Pushing
- Shaking
- Spitting
- Pinching
- Scalding
- misusing medication
- inappropriate restraint

There are physical, behavioural and emotional signs of physical abuse. Behaviours are seen both in the abuser and in the victim.

Signs of physical abuse can include:

- Black eyes
- Burns
- Restraint or grip markings
- Bruises
- Cuts
- Unusual pattern of injury; repeated trips to Accident and Emergency.