



Creating Day Opportunities for Older Black People

SAFEGUARDING OLDER PEOPLE FROM ABUSE AND NEGLECT

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OBADO is committed to safeguarding older people from abuse and neglect.

Protection from abuse and neglect

Everyone has the right to live safely, free from abuse and neglect – regardless of age. However, if you feel at risk yourself, or you're concerned about someone else, it's important to remember that there's help available.

Adults with care and support needs – for example, a disability, health condition or mental illness – can be at an increased risk of abuse and neglect, and less able to protect themselves from harm. **What you need to know.**

What is safeguarding?

Adults with care and support needs – for example, a disability, health condition or mental illness – can be at an increased risk of abuse and neglect, and less able to protect themselves from harm.

Safeguarding is the protection of the rights of those at risk. The Care Act 2014 sets out duties for local councils so that they must make enquiries when concerns about abuse or neglect arise. One of the aims of a safeguarding enquiry is to work out whether action is needed to safeguard an adult and, if so, what action is needed.

What is abuse and neglect?

We go into more detail about the many forms of abuse and neglect below. Incidents of abuse and neglect may be one-off or they may be multiple, and they can affect one person or more. Someone can also be affected by more than one type of abuse at the same time.

Jump to a section using the links below:

Domestic Abuse

Many of the types of abuse listed here (physical abuse, financial abuse, sexual abuse) will also be domestic abuse if they're perpetrated by someone you're connected to, such as:

- your current or ex-partner
- your adult child
- your adult grandchild
- another family member.

Any person of any age and any gender can experience domestic abuse, including older people.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse can include:

- any form of physical harm
- the misuse of medication

- inappropriate use of restraint
- things such as intentionally keeping a walking aid out of reach.

It doesn't have to be repeated – any single act of physical abuse is serious.

Psychological Abuse

Psychological abuse can include:

- threats of harm to you or others
- controlling behaviour
- intimidation
- coercion
- verbal abuse (such as humiliating you in front of others, shouting at you or repeatedly putting you down)
- emotional abuse
- isolating you from friends or loved ones.

This type of abuse can be very subtle and tricky to identify – it may be that you feel like you're walking on eggshells. It can even be experienced alongside overwhelming feelings of love and happiness.

Financial Abuse

Often, it's a case of one person manipulating another to feel confused and a sense that they're to blame for the abuse they're experiencing.

This can include:

- theft
- fraud
- exploiting your financial affairs
- restricting your access to money, employment or possessions
- pressuring and coercing you about your will, lasting power of attorney, property or inheritance.

Anyone can commit financial abuse – a relative, a partner or a criminal. Unfortunately, financial scams are getting more sophisticated.

Neglect

Neglect can include:

- ignoring your medical or physical care needs

- failing to provide you with access to appropriate health or social care.

Other examples include limiting your access to food, drink, medication or heating, restricting support with personal care, or not supporting you to attend medical appointments.

Self-neglect

Self-neglect can include a wide range of activities such as hoarding or neglecting personal care which may impact on your own health or others. It can include a refusal to accept help with health and care needs.

Self-neglect must be considered alongside the Mental Capacity Act. We have the right to make what others may see as unwise decisions, even when they may impact on our long-term wellbeing.

Discriminatory Abuse

If you're mistreated or treated less favourably than other people based on your protected characteristics, this could be discriminatory abuse. Your protected characteristics are:

- age
- disability
- gender reassignment
- marriage and civil partnership
- pregnancy and maternity
- race
- religion and belief
- sex
- sexual orientation.

For example, your religious or cultural needs may be neglected if you're not allowed to pray at certain times or your requirement for halal meat isn't respected.

Organisational Abuse

Organisational abuse can include an incident or pattern of incidents involving ongoing ill-treatment within an organisation. This could involve neglect, acts of omission or poor practice as a result of inadequate structures, policies and practice.

An organisation could be:

- a care home
- a hospital
- a day centre
- homecare services.

Modern slavery

Modern slavery can include slavery, human trafficking and domestic servitude. This can appear in different forms, such as:

- forced prostitution
- forced begging
- forced criminal behaviour
- forced work
- forced marriage
- forced organ donation.

What can I do if I feel unsafe or if I'm worried about someone else?

If you're experiencing, or are at risk of, abuse or neglect – or you're concerned that someone else is and you are unsure of who to contact?

You can phone OBADO safeguarding Lead number: **07846984394**

Or call the OBADO Advice Lines on **07888177528, 07361810953**

What will happen when I report abuse or neglect?

- When you report abuse or if abuse occurs, OBADO will escalate it to the adult safeguarding team at your local council, they'll listen to the information you give them and assess what action is required. They'll ensure that you feel in control of what happens.
- If you're the person at risk, you can ask for someone who you trust to support you, or you can ask for an advocate. If you have difficulties, or don't have the mental capacity to engage with the process, the local council may have a duty to appoint an advocate.
- If you're not the person at risk and you reported concerns about someone else, then the same applies for them – they can ask for someone they trust or an advocate, and in some situations, the local council may have a duty to appoint them an advocate.
- If you're at risk of further abuse, the adult safeguarding team will work with you to plan how you can stay safe. You must be fully involved at every stage of this process.

OBADO'S OBLIGATION

All staff and volunteers have responsibility to keep older people who need care and support safe from abuse and neglect.

Directors: Ensure that safeguarding is included, where appropriate, in quality assurance processes, strategic plans and risk assessments.

OBADO's safeguarding Lead is responsible for developing and quality assuring safeguarding activity and supporting best practice for external stakeholders.

Breach of Policy requires staff meeting/internal review; police and local authority investigation and referral to the Disclosure & Barring Service (DBS).

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Empowerment: OBADO upholds person-centred practice and rights in our safeguarding work.

Prevent: OBADO uses safe volunteer recruitment promoting safe working practice and raising awareness of safeguarding.

Protection: OBADO provides policy, procedures, information and training to enable all staff can identify and respond appropriately to concerns about abuse.

Proportionality: OBADO respects older people views about how they would like to be safeguarded.

Partnership: OBADO works in partnership with statutory, regulatory and other relevant organisations to ensure that safeguarding concerns are responded to appropriately.

Accountability: OBADO is transparent in our approaches and recognise the need for continuous learning and development.

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