

Company No: 07058666

Charity No: 1179433

## **SIGBI LTD SAFEGUARDING – PATTERNS OF ABUSE**

***For the purpose of this document, references to SIGBI Limited and Soroptimist International will be written as “SIGBI” and “SI” only.***

Policy owner	Director of Governance
Policy lead	SIGBI Designated Safeguarding Officer
Audience	Members and volunteers
Legislation	See pages 2 and 3 of this document
Formally endorsed by	SIGBI Limited Board 8 January 2021
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## **SIGBI Ltd Safeguarding - Patterns of abuse/abusing**

This varies and has a range of different dynamics which can include:

1. Serial abusing—where the perpetrator seeks out and grooms a child or adult at risk. This can incorporate sexual and financial abuse.
2. Long term abuse—in the context of an ongoing family relationship such as domestic abuse, between spouses/partners or generations.
3. Opportunistic abuse – where theft may take place because the opportunity presents itself.
4. Situational abuse – where pressures have built up and challenges present
5. Neglect – because those around the vulnerable person are not able to be responsible for the child or adult at risk care may be because the parent/carer needs assistance or may have their own health or other problems.
6. Organisational abuse – where poor care standards, lack of positive response to complex needs, rigid routines, inadequate staffing and insufficient knowledge can cause harm to a child or adult at risk
7. Unacceptable ‘treatment’ or programmes which include sanctions or punishments such as withholding of food or drink, seclusion, unnecessary and unauthorised use of control and restraint or other medication.
8. Failures of agencies or services to ensure staff receive appropriate guidance on anti-racist and anti-discriminatory practice.
9. Failure to access key services such as health care, dentistry, prostheses
10. Misappropriation or misuse of the person’s property, finances, fraud or intimidation by bullies.

### **Factors that may lead to abuse**

1. An unequal power relationship between abused and abuser.
2. A person with a learning disability, mental health or a disabling illness, that may create caring needs which exceed the parent/carer’s ability to meet them.
3. A personal or family history of violence; alcoholism, substance misuse or mental ill health.
4. Emotional and social isolation or a parent/carer and lack of support.
5. Minimal/no communication between a parent/carer with a child, young person or adult at risk.
6. Difficulties that can lead to substandard living conditions

### **TYPES OF ABUSE AND INDICATORS OF ABUSE**

#### ***Physical Abuse***

- *Hitting, slapping, scratching.*
- *Pushing or rough handling.*
- *Assault and battery.*
- *Restraining without justifiable reason.*

- *Inappropriate and unauthorised use of medication.*
- *Using medication as a chemical form of restraint.*
- *Inappropriate sanction including deprivation of food, clothing, warmth and health care needs.*
- *Female genital mutilation.*

### **Indicators of Physical Abuse**

- a) History of unexplained falls or minor injuries, especially if they are at different stages of healing.
- b) Unexplained bruising in well-protected body areas e.g inner thighs and upper arms.
- c) Burns e.g. cigarettes, rope etc.
- d) History of frequent changing of GP or reluctance to visit a GP or seeking help.
- e) Accumulation of prescribed medication which has not been administered.
- f) Malnutrition, ulcers, pressure sores and being left in wet clothing or beds.

### **Sexual abuse**

- *Sexual activity involving a child, young person or an adult who cannot or has not consented to or has been pressured into.*
- *Sexual activity which takes place when the child, young person or adult is unaware of the consequences or risks involved.*
- *Rape of attempted rape.*
- *Sexual assault or harassment.*
- *Non-contact abuse e.g. voyeurism, pornography.*

### **Indicators of Sexual Abuse and exploitation**

- a) Unexplained changes in demeanour and behaviour.
- b) Tendency to withdraw and spend time in isolation.
- c) Expression of explicit sexual behaviour and/or language which is out of character.
- d) Irregular and or disturbed sleep patterns.
- e) Bruising or bleeding in the rectal or genital areas.
- f) Torn or stained underclothing.
- g) Sexually transmitted disease or pregnancy.
- h) Coerced, trafficked or manipulated to participate in sexual activity or porn.
- i) Alcohol or drug induced behaviours which result in sexual activity.
- j) Grooming activities towards the child or adult at risk.
- k) Being controlled and being unable to please or stand up to the abuser.
- l) Unfulfilled promises that the abuse will stop.

## **Psychological abuse**

- *Emotional abuse*
- *Verbal abuse*
- *Humiliation and ridicule*
- *Threats of punishment, abandonment, intimidation or exclusion from services*
- *Isolation or withdrawal from services or support networks*
- *Deliberate denial of religious, cultural needs or abuse related to faith*
- *Forced marriage*
- *Failure to provide access to appropriate social skills and educational development training*

## **Indicators of Psychological Abuse**

It is impossible to experience abuse by any of the descriptors and not feel a psychological impact. Some signs may be:

- a) Loss of appetite or overeating
- b) Anxiety, depression, confusion or resignation
- c) Social withdrawal and isolation
- d) Inability to sleep or long periods in bed
- e) Reluctance to engage with services or help
- f) Self-harm
- g) Inability to remove one's self from the abuser

## **Neglect and acts of omission**

- *Ignoring medical or physical care needs*
- *Failure to access care or equipment for functional independence*
- *Failure to give prescribed medication*
- *Failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services*
- *Neglect of accommodation, heating, lighting etc.*
- *Failure to give privacy and dignity*
- *Professional neglect*

## **Ill-Treatment or Wilful Neglect**

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 introduces two new criminal offences: ill treatment and wilful neglect of a person who lack the mental capacity to make a relevant decision. The offences may apply to:

- a) Anyone caring for a person who lacks capacity – formally, or informally, paid or not
- b) A lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) or an Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA)
- c) A Deputy appointed for the adult by the Court of Protection

These people may be guilty of an offence if they ill-treat or wilfully neglect the person they care for or represent. Current Penalties can range from a fine to a custodial sentence of up to five years or both. Ill-treatment and neglect are separate offences. For a person to be found guilty of ill-treatment, they must either

- Have deliberately ill-treated the person, or
- Be reckless in the way they were treating the person resulting in the person's ill-treatment

The meaning of **Wilful Neglect** varies depending on the circumstances. But it usually means that a person has deliberately failed to carry out an act that they knew they had a duty to do. Wilful bullying or behaviour likely to engender fear, however, may amount to ill-treatment. Carers of adults at risk who wilfully fail to provide adequate food, clothing, medical aid or accommodation for them may be guilty of this offence. Signs may include failing to thrive, poor personal hygiene, hunger, thirst, dehydration, fear, unremoved hazards and social isolation.

## **Organisational Abuse**

Organisational abuse refers to abusive and poor care and or clinical practices that may develop when a child, young person or adult at risk is living or staying in a care service, or maybe receiving respite or attending a day care establishment, or are receiving treatment or assessment in a hospital, clinic or other NHS service or in relation to care provided in their own home. This can be especially so when care standards and practices fall below an acceptable level as detailed in contractual specifications or fall below the Essential Standards for Quality and Care as set out under the Care Act 2000.

It is important to try to consider neglect which may result in abusive practice – which may have arisen from poor standards, poor clinical governance, poor leadership and lack of knowledge or training, versus specific allegations regarding intentional abuse, particularly from a whistle blower.

### **Indicators of Organisational abuse in such circumstances may be:**

- a) Inadequate clothing, food, fluids, heating, lighting or access to a way of calling for help
- b) Poor assessment and recording of the person's needs
- c) Poor physical condition e.g. pressure ulcers
- d) Unkempt and unwashed, frequently in night clothes during the day
- e) Failing to clinically assess or give prescribed medication or obtain medical assistance.
- f) Unexplained or continued weight loss
- g) Failure to acknowledge privacy and dignity
- h) Reluctant contact with professionals or visitors
- i) Unable to access spectacles, hearing aids etc, causing sensory deprivation
- j) Person showing fear
- k) Loss of or low self esteem
- l) Depression
- m) Un-characteristically becoming manipulative, uncooperative and aggressive

## **Financial or Material Abuse**

- *Having money misused or stolen*
- *Having property stolen*
- *Being defrauded*
- *Being put under pressure in relation to money or property*
- *Having money or property misused*
- *Misuse of and Enduring or Lasting Power of Attorney*

## **Indicators of Financial or Material Abuse**

A child or young person may be financially or materially abused by their 'friends' or bullies they may also suffer from deprivation and poor care when their parents have become victims of crime, poor housing, domestic abuse and lack of income.

There is also a duty to protect an adult at risk from financial abuse and to report concerns or irregularities, with transparent actions, in the knowledge that dignity and privacy are especially important. Financial assets and property are for the benefit of that person and use by others (without express permission) may constitute financial abuse: e.g. theft or misappropriation of money or property may be regarded as a criminal act.

If an adult at risk requires assistance to manage their financial affairs, they will benefit from early advice, during an assessment or review, where their suggestibility to undue influence should be considered. Indicators of financial/material abuse may be:

- a) Theft, fraud or deception.
- b) Pressure on a person regarding their will, property ownership or inheritance
- c) Misuse or misappropriation of benefits
- d) Inability to pay basic bills
- e) Withdrawal of large sums of money without reasonable explanation.
- f) Disappearance of personal possessions
- g) Substandard living conditions compared to the person/family's normal lifestyle.
- h) Extraordinary interest in an adult at risk's financial affairs or assets without the legal authority provided by a Registered Enduring Power of Attorney or a Registered Lasting Power of Attorney.

## **Discrimination**

- *Discrimination demonstrated on any grounds including sex, race colour, language, culture, religion, politics or sexual orientation*
- *Discrimination that is based on a person's disability or age*
- *Harassment and slurs which are degrading*
- *Hate Crime*

### **Discrimination may occur in one of the following forms:**

- a) Direct Discrimination – when a person with a protected characteristic is treated less favourably than others.
- b) Indirect Discrimination – When a person with a protected characteristic is placed at an unfair disadvantage by putting rules or arrangements in place that apply to everyone.
- c) Harassment – this is unwanted behaviour that is linked to a protected characteristic which violates a person’s dignity or creates an offensive environment for them.
- d) Victimisation – when a person is treated unfairly because they have complained about discrimination or harassment.

The legal basis for this is The Equalities Act 2110 and it is against the law to discriminate against anyone because of:

- Age
- Being or becoming a transsexual person
- Being married or in a civil partnership
- Being pregnant or having a child
- Disability
- Race including colour, nationality, ethnicity or national origin
- Religion, belief or lack of religion or belief
- Sex or sexual orientation

These are ‘Protected Characteristics’ and a person is protected from discrimination when they are:

- At work
- In education
- A consumer
- Using public services
- Buying or renting property
- A member or guest of a private club or association

### **Modern Slavery or Human Trafficking**

The main elements of human trafficking are:

**The movement** – recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring or receipt of people

**The control** – threat, use of force, coercion, abduction, fraud, deception, abuse of power or vulnerability, or giving payment or benefits to a person in control of the victim

**The purpose** – exploitation of a person, which includes prostitution and other sexual exploitation, forced labour, slavery or similar practices and the removal of organs.

Children cannot give consent to being moved: therefore the coercion or deception elements do not have to be present. Countries throughout Europe translate and interpret the Palermo Protocol in different ways so the definition of what constitutes human trafficking can differ between nations.

## Forced Marriage

You have the right to choose who you marry or if you marry at all. Forced marriage is where physical (e.g. threats, violence or sexual violence), emotional and or psychological pressure (e.g. person being made to feel like they are bringing shame on the family) is brought to bear to make one person marry another.

Offences are:

- Taking someone overseas to force them to marry (whether the forced marriage takes place or not)
- Marrying someone who lacks the mental capacity to consent to the marriage (whether they are pressured or not)

If there are concerns that a forced marriage is planned, contact can be made with the police and or the Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) and the court can be asked for a Forced Marriage Protection Order to be made.

## Domestic Abuse

The definition of domestic abuse applies to males and females and is referred to as:

*A pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive or threatening behaviour violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality.*

This can encompass but is not limited to the following types of abuse:

Psychological, Physical, Sexual, Financial and Emotional.

**Controlling behaviour** is: *a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.*

**Coercive behaviour** is *an act or pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish or frighten their victim. This definition includes so called 'honour' based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, and victims are not confined to one gender or ethnic group.*

Domestic abuse is not a specific criminal offence in itself but can incorporate a range of incidents and criminal offences, victims can be from all sections of society irrespective of race, culture, nationality, religion, sexuality, disability, *age, class, educational level, gender or from any ethnic group, however national statistics show an extremely high prevalence of domestic abuse against women by men.*

In situations of domestic abuse, the principle of safe enquiry is core to all work with victims. Where a criminal offence has been committed the police **must** be informed even if consent has not been given. However, the views and wishes of the victim will be sought regarding any response by the police. If the crime impacts of other adults or children, the police will act accordingly.

## Hate Crime

Hate crimes and incidents can be against the person or property. Hate crime hurts and it can be motivated by the offender's hatred of people who are seen as being different. An adult or child may be a victim because of race, religion, age, sexuality or gender.

**Exploitation includes:**

- Opportunistically or premediated
- Unfairly manipulating someone for profit or personal gain
- Modern Slavery
- Human Trafficking
- Radicalisation

**Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE)**

This is a form of child abuse which involves receiving something in exchange for sexual activity. Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) are responsible for ensuring that appropriate local procedures are in place and all frontline practitioners must be aware of the procedures and how they relate to their role and areas of responsibility.

**Female Genital Mutilation (FGM)**

FGM has been a criminal offence in the UK since 1985 and in 2003 under The Female Genital Mutilations Act 2003 it also became a criminal offence for UK nationals or permanent UK residents to take their child abroad for FGM. Anyone found guilty of the offence faces a maximum penalty of 14 years in prison.

The FGM Act 2003 states that a person is guilty of an offence if they excise, infibulate or otherwise mutilate the whole or any part of a girl or woman's labia majora, labia minora or clitoris, but no offence is committed by an approved person who performs a surgical operation, necessary for physical or mental health, or surgical operation on a girl or woman and any stage of labour, or has just given birth.

Section 5b of the FGM Act 2003 introduces a mandatory reporting duty which requires regulated health and social care professionals and teachers in England and Wales to report "known" cases of FGM in under 18's which they identify in the course of their professional work to the police. That duty has been in place since 31<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

The indicators or possible FGM having taken place may be like those demonstrated when psychological, physical and/or sexual abuse has occurred.

**Inappropriate Restraint**

Department of Health guidance: Positive and Proactive Care, provides a framework to assist health and social care services to develop a culture where restrictive interventions are only ever used as a last resort and for the shortest possible time.

Some key points from the guidance are:

- a) Staff must not deliberately restrain people in a way that impacts on their airway, breathing or circulation, such as face down restraint on any surface not just a floor.
- b) If restrictive intervention is used it must not include deliberate application of pain and must always represent the least restrictive option to address the immediate need.
- c) Staff must not use seclusion ( this may differ if a person is subject to detention under the Mental Health Act 1983)
- d) People who use services, families and carers must be involved in planning, reviewing and evaluating all aspects of care and support.

- e) Individualised support plans, incorporating planning for managing behaviour, must be implemented for people who use services and who are known to be at risk of being exposed to restrictive interventions
- f) Providers of services must have clear local policy requirements and ensure that they are available to users of services, to parents and carers.
- g) Post- incident reviews and debriefs must be planned so that lessons are learnt when incidents occur where restrictive interventions have taken place.