

The Adult Protection Committee

This leaflet has been produced on behalf of the South Lanarkshire Adult Protection Committee.

The Committee brings together representatives of the agencies that work with adults at risk of harm, for example the police, health, housing, social work, voluntary groups and other organisations.

The Adult Protection Committee is there to make sure that agencies work closely together and have good standards and effective training in place to protect vulnerable adults.

Other information

Everyone deserves the right to live their lives free from abuse or neglect. If you are being harmed or someone you know is being harmed or suffering from abuse or neglect - please contact your local Social Work office - the numbers are on the back of this leaflet.

There is also more information on the following websites:

South Lanarkshire Council

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Act against harm

www.infoscotland.org/actagainstharm

Local social work offices:

Blantyre

45 John Street, Blantyre G72 0JG
Phone: 01698 527400
Email: swloblantyre@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Clydesdale

South Vennel, Lanark ML11 7JT
Phone: 01555 673000
Email: swloclydesdale@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

East Kilbride

Civic Centre, Andrew Street,
East Kilbride G74 1AB
Phone: 01355 807000
Email: swloeastkilbride@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Hamilton

Brandon Gate, 1 Leechlee Road
Hamilton ML3 0XB
Phone: 01698 455400
Email: swlohamilton@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Larkhall

Claude Street, Larkhall ML9 2BU
Phone: 01698 884656
Email: swlolarkhall@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Rutherglen

Royal Burgh House, 380 King Street
Rutherglen G73 1DQ
Phone: 0141 613 5000
Email: swlorutherglen@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

Emergency Social Work Service

When the local social work offices are closed please
phone: 0800 678 3282



For more information or if you want this information in a different format or language, please phone 01698 455787 or email lynn.kerr@southlanarkshire.gov.uk

www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk



Act against harm

Everyone deserves to live their lives
free from abuse or neglect



There is a new law to protect you if
you are unable to protect yourself,
your property or your rights



Act against harm

Act against harm

Most people are aware of the need to protect children and young people from abuse.

Sometimes adults can also suffer from neglect or harm when they are unable to protect themselves.

Now we can take legal steps to help protect adults at risk of harm too.

Who is covered by the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007

If you are over 16, and at risk of harm, the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 is there to protect you if you are unable to protect yourself, your property or your rights.

For example, if you have a serious illness, mental health problems or physical or learning disability. All these things can make it that bit harder to protect yourself from harm.

What do we mean by harm?

The law is there to protect adults from many kinds of harm.

For example:

- ✗ Physical harm - being slapped, punched or shaken
- ✗ Psychological harm - humiliation, constant criticism or shouting
- ✗ Neglect - when a person is denied the medical or physical care they need, or they're kept hungry or cold
- ✗ Financial harm - when someone is put under pressure to hand over money, possessions or even their home
- ✗ Sexual harm - when they are subjected to sexual activity they don't want, don't feel comfortable with or don't understand

What should you do if you are concerned?

Obviously, if you witnessed someone being assaulted - you would phone the police. But not all kinds of harm are so obvious. If you are concerned that you or someone you know is being harmed - contact your local social work office - the numbers are on the back of this leaflet.

What happens when you report concerns?

If you are calling about yourself, we will listen to you and can arrange to meet with you to discuss what the issues are and agree the best course of action.

If you are calling about someone else, we will make some inquiries to see if they're already known to us. We can visit them and check things out for example, with their Doctor or nurse or other people who know with them.

We can arrange for an independent advocate to spend time with them to work out what the issues are and ensure the person's views are heard. Advocates are generally people with a lot of skills and experience in supporting people who may have learning or other disabilities that make it harder to express themselves fully.

We make every effort to carry out these inquiries in a sensitive and caring way.

We will work to resolve most issues without taking any legal action. But there are legal measures available to protect vulnerable adults.

If you're being harmed yourself, or you know someone being harmed, call or visit your nearest Social Work office for more information.

