



Safer Seven

On: Adult Neglect – Acts of Omission



1. Defining Adult Neglect

Adult neglect encompasses the failure to provide necessary care, assistance, or resources to meet an individual's basic needs.

It can manifest in various forms, including physical, emotional, and financial neglect. Acts of omission refer to instances where caregivers or responsible parties fail to fulfil their duty of care, resulting in harm or risk of harm to the individual in their care. This can include not providing adequate food, shelter, medical care, supervision, or emotional support.

2. Signs / indicators

Identifying neglect can be challenging signs and indicators can include:

- Poor environmental conditions
- Inadequate heating and lighting
- Poor physical condition of the adult
- Clothing is ill-fitting, unclean and in poor condition.
- Malnutrition
- Failure to give prescribed medication properly.
- Failure to provide appropriate privacy and dignity.
- Inconsistent /reluctant contact with agencies
- Isolation – denying access to callers or visitors.

3. Risk Factors

Certain factors may increase the risk of adult neglect, including:

- Advanced age or disability
- Mental illness or cognitive impairment
- Substance abuse issues
- Domestic Abuse
- Social isolation or lack of support networks
- Caregiver stress or burnout
- Failures in health and social care providers

4. Impact

The consequences of adult neglect can be severe and long-lasting:

- Physical health decline, including increased risk of illness and premature death.
- Psychological trauma, leading to depression, anxiety, and diminished self-worth.
- Financial exploitation, leaving individuals at risk
- Deterioration of social connections and support networks.

5. Processes and pathways

We have launched our [Adult Neglect Strategy](#) which sets out how in Dudley we are going to tackle Neglect in the Borough. Our vision is to have a Borough where all adults can live a life free from neglect.

In Dudley we use the following processes and pathways for Neglect - Acts of Omission

- [Adult Safeguarding Procedures](#)
- [Deciding if you need to raise a Safeguarding Concern to Adult Social Care](#)

6. What can you do?

By recognising the signs and taken action at the earliest opportunity, we can work towards our vision ensuring all individuals receive the care and support they deserve.

If you are concerned that an adult with care and support needs may be at risk of or experiencing neglect, you can refer to [Dudley Adults Portal](#)

7. Further information:

Visit our Learning Zone to see our selection of briefings and more [HERE](#)