

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Children & Young People

Definition:

“Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child. Physical harm may also be caused when a parent or carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces, illness in a child.”

(HM Government, *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, London, Stationery Office, 2015)

Examples:

- children being hit
- babies being shaken
- children being bitten
- deliberate burning with a cigarette end
- dunking a child in very hot water.

Possible indicators of physical abuse in children and young people

Indicators are given here as examples only. They may be present in different types of abuse. They do not tell you that abuse is occurring and can have other, non-abusive explanations. However they may alert you to the need to be aware of the possibility of abuse, to be observant and to record any concerns.

- bruising
 - in unusual places, e.g. around the mouth
 - in unusual patterns, e.g. symmetrical bruises indicating a child has been gripped
 - in particular shapes, e.g. fingertip bruising; belt marks
- burns/scalds, especially in significant shapes such as an iron or cigarette end
- adult human bite marks
- serious injury when there is a lack of, or an inconsistent, explanation
- untreated injuries
- unusual fracture.

Children may be:

- unusually fearful with adults
- unnaturally compliant with their parents/carers
- wearing clothes that cover up their arms and legs
- reluctant to talk about or refuse to discuss any injuries, or fearful of medical help
- aggressive towards others.

PHYSICAL ABUSE

Adults

Definition:

The non-accidental infliction of physical force, which results in pain, injury or impairment.

Examples

- hitting
- slapping
- pushing
- pinching
- kicking
- hair-pulling
- punching
- forcing (including force-feeding)
- inappropriate application of techniques (eg control and restraint)
- the use of incorrect moving and handling techniques which are potentially dangerous and are known to cause distress
- isolation or confinement
- the impairment of, or an avoidable deterioration in, health
- misuse of prescribed medication; overdosing or under-dosing.

Possible indicators of physical abuse in adults

Indicators are given here as examples only. They may be present in different types of abuse. They do not tell you that abuse is occurring and can have other (non-abusive) explanations. However they may alert you to the need to be aware of the possibility of abuse, to be observant and to record any concerns.

- a history of unexplained falls, minor injuries or malnutrition
- injuries inconsistent with the lifestyle of the person
- unexplained bruises in various stages of healing
- injuries to the head, face or scalp
- untreated injuries in various stages of healing or not properly treated
- poor skin condition or poor skin hygiene
- dehydration and/or malnutrition without illness-related cause
- broken eyeglasses/frames,
- physical signs of being subjected to punishment, or signs of having been restrained
- loss of weight
- a vulnerable person telling you they have been hit, slapped, kicked, or mistreated
- varicose ulcers, or pressure sores
- injuries reflecting the shape of an object
- unexplained burns, rope burns or cigarette burns.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Children & Young People

Definition:

The persistent emotional maltreatment of a child such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on the child's emotional development. It may involve conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may include not giving the child opportunities to express their views, deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate. It may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond a child's developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying (including cyber bullying), causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a child, though it may occur alone.

(HM Government, *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, London, Stationery Office, 2015)

Examples:

- parents who are emotionally unavailable to their children
- parents who see their children negatively and deserving of maltreatment
- parents who expect more of their children than they are can achieve developmentally
- children being exposed to domestic abuse
- adults not recognising a child's individuality
- adults grooming a child through persuasion, coercion and deceit for the adult's own ends eg sexual abuse
- bullying.

Possible indicators of emotional abuse in children and young people:

Indicators are given here as examples only. They may be present in different types of abuse.

They do not tell you that abuse is occurring and can have other, non-abusive explanations.

However they may alert you to the need to be aware of the possibility of abuse, to be observant and to record any concerns.

- behaviour extremes: children may be overactive or withdrawn
- lacking in confidence or self-worth
- lack of concentration
- physical symptoms without an apparent cause
- difficulty in trusting adults or very anxious to please adults
- reluctance to go home; fear of parents being contacted
- socially isolated
- behaviour that expresses anxiety, eg rocking, hair-twisting or thumb-sucking
- self-harming behaviour
- substance misuse
- sleep and/or eating disorders
- school non-attendance
- running away.

EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Adults

Definition:

Emotional or psychological abuse is behaviour that has a harmful effect on an adult's emotional health and development. All abuse of vulnerable people has an emotional impact.

Examples:

- scolding or treating like a child (infantilisation)
- making a person feel ashamed of involuntary behaviour
- blaming someone for attitudes or actions or events beyond their control
- use of silence
- humiliation
- bullying/harassment
- verbal abuse
- intimidation
- controlling or creating over-dependence
- lack of privacy and dignity
- deprivation of social contact (eg deliberate isolation/denial of access to visitors)
- threats to withdraw help and support
- denying of cultural and spiritual needs
- denying of choice
- failing to respond adequately to emotional needs.

Possible indicators of emotional abuse in adults:

Indicators are given here as examples only. They may be present in different types of abuse. They do not tell you that abuse is occurring and can have other, non-abusive explanations. However they may alert you to the need to be aware of the possibility of abuse, to be observant and to record any concerns.

- alteration in psychological state (eg the person appears to be withdrawn, agitated or anxious in general)
- the person appears to be frightened of making choices or expressing their wishes
- hesitation in speaking openly
- unexplained fear
- confusion or disorientation
- anger without apparent cause
- a vulnerable person telling you they are being verbally or emotionally abused
- tearfulness
- unusual behaviour (sucking, biting, or rocking)
- changes in sleep patterns.

NEGLECT**Children & Young People****Definition:**

The persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. Neglect may occur during pregnancy as a result of maternal substance abuse. Once a child is born, neglect may involve a parent or carer failing to:

- provide adequate food, clothing and shelter (including exclusion from home or abandonment);
- protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger;
- ensure adequate supervision (including the use of inadequate care-givers); or
- ensure access to appropriate medical care or treatment. It may also include neglect of, or unresponsiveness to, a child's basic emotional needs.

(HM Government, *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, London, Stationery Office, 2015)

Examples:

- parents not providing adequate physical care
- parents not ensuring proper and timely medical attention
- adults not providing oversight of children to ensure they are not at risk of danger.

Possible indicators of neglect in children and young people

Indicators are given here as examples only. They may be present in different types of abuse. They do not tell you that abuse is occurring and can have other, non-abusive explanations. However they may alert you to the need to be aware of the possibility of abuse, to be observant and to record any concerns.

- children whose personal hygiene and state of clothing is poor
- children who are constantly hungry and frequently tired
- developmental delay
- low self-esteem
- socially isolated
- poor skin tone and hair tone
- untreated medical problems
- failure to thrive with no medical reason
- poor concentration
- frequent accidents and/or accidental injuries
- eating disorders
- begging and stealing.

NEGLECT**Adults****Definition:**

Neglect is the repeated withholding of adequate care which results in the adult's basic needs not being met. It can be intentional or unintentional and includes acts of omission.

Examples:

- denial of educational, social and recreational needs
- lack of adequate heating/lighting
- lack of adequate food/fluids
- inappropriate medical care; inappropriate use of medication or over-medication
- lack of attention to hygiene
- lack of attention to toe and fingernails
- lack of attention to teeth (natural or false)
- denial of religious or cultural needs.

Possible indicators of neglect in adults

Indicators are given here as examples only. They may be present in different types of abuse. They do not tell you that abuse is occurring and can have other, non-abusive explanations. However they may alert you to the need to be aware of the possibility of abuse, to be observant and to record any concerns.

- poor hygiene and cleanliness
- clothing which is inadequate or in poor condition
- dirt, faecal or urine smell, or other health and safety hazards in the vulnerable person's living environment
- persistent hunger
- dehydration
- weight loss
- the vulnerable person has an untreated medical condition
- poor physical condition; rashes, sores, varicose ulcers, pressure sores
- evidence of failure to seek medical advice or summon assistance as required
- evidence of failure to access appropriate health, educational services or social care.

SEXUAL ABUSE**Children & Young People****Definition:**

“Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, not necessarily involving a high level of violence, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. The activities may involve physical contact, including assault by penetration (e.g. rape, or oral sex) or non-penetrative acts such as masturbation, kissing, rubbing and touching outside of clothing. They may also include non-contact activities, such as involving children in looking at, or in the production of, sexual images, watching sexual activities, encouraging children to behave in sexually inappropriate ways, or grooming a child in preparation for abuse (including via the internet). Sexual abuse is not solely perpetrated by adult males. Women can also commit acts of sexual abuse, as can other children.”

(HM Government, *Working Together to Safeguard Children*, London, Stationery Office, 2015)

Examples:

- showing a child pornographic images
- filming or taking photos of a child in sexual poses or acts
- touching a child’s genitalia
- sexual assault
- forced marriage
- children trafficked for sexual exploitation.

Possible indicators of sexual abuse in children and young people

Indicators are given here as examples only. They may be present in different types of abuse. They do not tell you that abuse is occurring and can have other, non-abusive explanations. However they may alert you to the need to be aware of the possibility of abuse, to be observant and to record any concerns.

- Sexual knowledge which is inappropriate for the child’s age
- Sexualised behaviour in young children
- Children hinting at sexual activity.
- Evidence of grooming activity by a significant adult.
- Soiling, wetting; constipation.
- Frequent urinary tract infections, discharges or abdominal pain.
- Unexpected pregnancy especially in very young girls.
- Lack of concentration, restlessness.
- The child or young person is socially withdrawn.
- The child or young person is overly compliant.
- The child or young person has poor trust in significant adults.
- Regressive behaviour, onset of wetting (after having been dry) – day or night
- Self-harming behaviour.
- Eating disorders.
- Sexually transmitted disease.
- Soreness in genitalia area, anus or mouth.

CHILD SEXUAL EXPLOITATION

Children & Young People

What is child sexual exploitation?

Child sexual exploitation (CSE) is a form of sexual abuse that involves the manipulation and/or coercion of young people under the age of 18 into sexual activity in exchange for things such as money, gifts, accommodation, affection or status. The manipulation or 'grooming' process involves befriending children, gaining their trust, and often feeding them drugs and alcohol, sometimes over a long period of time, before the abuse begins. The abusive relationship between victim and perpetrator involves an imbalance of power which limits the victim's options. It is a form of abuse which is often misunderstood by victims and outsiders as consensual. Although it is true that the victim can be tricked into believing they are in a loving relationship, no child under the age of 18 can ever consent to being abused or exploited. (Barnardo's, 2012).

Child sexual exploitation can manifest itself in different ways. It can involve an older perpetrator exercising financial, emotional or physical control over a young person. It can involve peers manipulating or forcing victims into sexual activity, sometimes within gangs and in gang-affected neighbourhoods, but not always. Exploitation can also involve opportunistic or organised networks of perpetrators who may profit financially from trafficking young victims between different locations to engage in sexual activity with multiple men (Barnardo's, 2011).

This abuse often involves violent and degrading sexual assaults and rape. The Children's Commissioner's report on sexual exploitation by gangs and groups found that oral and anal rape were the most frequently reported types of abuse. Experts agree that these types of abuse are particularly humiliating and controlling, and, as such, may be preferred by those who exploit vulnerable young people (Berelowitz et al, 2012). Exploitation can also occur without physical contact when children are persuaded or forced to post indecent images of themselves online, participate in non-contact sexual activities via a webcam or smartphone, or engage in sexual conversations on a mobile phone (DfE, 2011).

Technology is widely used by perpetrators as a method of grooming and coercing victims, often through social networking sites and mobile devices (Jago et al, 2011). This form of abuse usually occurs in private, or in semi-public places such as parks, cinemas, cafes and hotels. It is increasingly occurring at 'parties' organised by perpetrators for the purposes of giving victims drugs and alcohol before sexually abusing them (Barnardo's, 2012).

SEXUAL ABUSE**Adults****Definition:**

Sexual abuse is the involvement of any adult in sexual activities or relationships, without informed or valid consent.

Examples:

- offensive or inappropriate language, including sexual innuendos and sexual teasing
- inappropriate looking
- inflicting pornography on an individual
- inappropriate touching
- masturbation
- indecent exposure
- coercion into an activity
- rape or sexual assault
- photography.

Possible indicators of sexual abuse in adults

Indicators are given here as examples only. They may be present in different types of abuse. They do not tell you that abuse is occurring and can have other, non-abusive explanations. However they may alert you to the need to be aware of the possibility of abuse, to be observant and to record any concerns.

- unexplained changes in behaviour
- a significant change in sexual behaviour or sexually implicit/explicit behaviour
- pregnancy in a woman who is unable to consent to sexual intercourse
- bruises around the breasts or genital area
- unusual difficulty in walking or sitting
- torn, stained or bloody underwear
- unexplained infections or sexually transmitted diseases
- hints about sexual abuse
- sleep disturbances
- self-harming
- a vulnerable person telling you they have been sexually assaulted or raped.

FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL ABUSE

Adults

Definition:

Financial or material abuse is the denial of access of the individual to money, property, possessions, valuables or inheritance, or improper or unauthorised use of funds via omission, exploitation or extortion through threats.

Examples:

- misuse, embezzlement or theft of a person's money, property or possessions
- refusing a person access to their own money, property or possessions
- pressure in connection with wills, testaments, property, inheritance etc
- extortion of money property or possessions through theft
- failing to account satisfactorily for the use of a person's money, property or possessions, fraudulent use of money
- misuse or misappropriation of property; possessions or benefits (eg personal income subsumed into household income)
- loans made to anyone if made under duress, threat or dishonestly extracted.

Possible indicators of financial abuse in adults

Indicators are given here as examples only. They may be present in different types of abuse. They do not tell you that abuse is occurring and can have other, non-abusive explanations. However they may alert you to the need to be aware of the possibility of abuse, to be observant and to record any concerns.

- a disparity between assets and living conditions, reluctance to incur expenses when finances should not be a problem (eg little food in the house, wearing worn out clothes) – the natural thriftiness of some should be borne in mind
- unexplained lack of money or inability to maintain lifestyle. Lack of amenities, such as personal grooming items, appropriate clothing, that the vulnerable person should be able to afford
- deliberate isolation of a vulnerable person by caregivers
- unexplained disappearance of items from a vulnerable person's house
- unexplained withdrawals from bank or building society accounts
- sudden inability to pay bills
- person managing finances is uncooperative
- carers or professionals fail to account for expenses incurred on a person's behalf
- recent changes of deeds or title to property
- the sudden appearance of previously uninvolved relatives claiming their rights to an older person's affairs or possessions.

DISCRIMINATORY ABUSE

Adults

Definition:

Discriminatory abuse, including racist and sexist abuse, exists when values, beliefs or culture result in the misuse of power that denies opportunities to some individuals or groups.

Examples:

- unequal treatment
- inappropriate use of language: racist remarks, sexist remarks, derogatory remarks or verbal abuse
- humiliating behaviour
- lack of respect towards a person's culture
- comments about disability
- bullying or other forms of harassment
- deprivation of normal social contact and cultural identity
- deliberate exclusion.

Possible indicators of discriminatory abuse towards adults

Indicators are given here as examples only. They may be present in different types of abuse. They do not tell you that abuse is occurring and can have other, non-abusive explanations. However they may alert you to the need to be aware of the possibility of abuse, to be observant and to record any concerns.

- lack of respect shown to people
- offensive comments which may be racist, sexist, homophobic or ageist
- withdrawal and social isolation
- poor self-esteem
- poor quality care
- the vulnerable person prefers not to be cared for by certain member(s) of staff/volunteers
- a staff member/volunteer may seem to avoid working with certain groups of people.

ORGANISATIONAL ABUSE

Adults

Definition:

Organisational abuse occurs when an organisation's priorities, policies and practices are more important than individuals' needs and wishes. It includes a failure to ensure that the necessary standards are in place to protect and maintain good standards of care according to individual choice.

Examples:

- authoritarian or rigid management
- lack of leadership or supervision and monitoring of staff or volunteers
- poor care standards
- lack of positive response to complex needs
- rigid routines
- inadequate staffing
- insufficient knowledge base within the service
- disrespectful attitudes among staff
- inappropriate use of physical interventions (control and restraint) by poorly trained staff
- poor practice in the provision of intimate care
- not taking account of individual's needs, culture, religion or ethnicity.

Possible indicators of organisational abuse towards adults

Indicators are given here as examples only. They may be present in different types of abuse. They do not tell you that abuse is occurring and can have other, non-abusive explanations. However they may alert you to the need to be aware of the possibility of abuse, to be observant and to record any concerns.

- lack of flexibility or choice for people using the service
- inadequate staffing levels
- inappropriate or poor care
- no opportunity for drinks or snacks
- failure to promote or support a person's spiritual or cultural beliefs
- a culture of treating 'everyone the same' which is different from treating everyone 'equally'
- dehumanising language
- absence of individual care.



SPIRITUAL ABUSE

Children, and Adults

Spiritual abuse is not a category of abuse recognised in statutory guidance but is of concern both within and outside faith communities including the Church. (*Protecting All God's Children 2010, Church 4th edition*).

Spiritual abuse is coercion and control of one individual by another in a spiritual context. The target experiences spiritual abuse as a deeply emotional personal attack.

(Oakley and Kinmond, 2013)

This abuse may include

- the misuse of Scripture, the authority of leadership or penitential discipline, with a requirement to be obedient to the abuser
- enforced accountability and pressure to conform
- requirements for secrecy and silence, with isolation from others external to the abuse context
- oppressive teaching
- censorship of decision making
- intrusive or forced healing and deliverance ministries or rituals
- the denial of the right to faith or the opportunity to grow in the knowledge and love of God.

Examples:

It might be seen in a leader who is intimidating and imposes their will on other people, perhaps threatening dire consequences or the wrath of God if disobeyed. They may say that God has revealed certain things to them and so they know what is right. Those under their leadership are fearful to challenge or disagree, believing they will lose the leader's (or, more seriously God's) acceptance and approval.

Indicators

Indicators are given here as examples only. They may be present in different types of abuse. They do not tell you that abuse is occurring and can have other, non-abusive explanations. However they may alert you to the need to be aware of the possibility of abuse, to be observant and to record any concerns. All abuse of children, young people and adults can lead to the crushing of people's spirit, damage their sense of identity, sense of self and personal confidence, consequently harming their spiritual development.

Research for the Department for Education and Skills' *Child Abuse Linked to Accusations of 'Possession' and 'Witchcraft'* (Stobart, 2006) reported:

- From January 2000 to mid 2005, 38 cases were identified, involving 47 children where children had been accused of being evil, of being possessed by spirits or of having connections with witchcraft.
- Of these children, half had been born in the UK. Half were from Africa.
- Boys and girls were equally at risk. The majority were aged between 8 and 11.
- Children identified by their carers as being possessed exhibited a range of behaviours

DOMESTIC ABUSE

Children, and Adults

Home Office March 2013:-

Domestic abuse is any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, 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. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:

- psychological
- physical
- sexual
- financial
- 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 a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.

Domestic violence and children

200,000 children (1.8%) in England live in homes where there is a known risk of violence or domestic violence (Laming, 2009).

There is a close link between parental violence and violence to children. Between 50% and 70% of children living with domestic violence are directly physically or sexually abused themselves. Nine out of ten young people who report neglect also report living with domestic violence. Children may suffer directly or indirectly if they live in households where there is domestic violence. Prolonged and/or regular exposure to domestic violence can have a serious damaging impact on children's physical safety and emotional wellbeing and constitutes emotional abuse.

Children are at risk of physical injury during an incident of domestic violence either by accident or because they attempt to intervene. Exposure to violence, parental conflict and the distress of a caregiver is extremely anxiety-provoking for children.

Children may also suffer because domestic violence has an effect on parents' capacity to provide care for their children.

Domestic violence towards women

Women are more likely to experience the most serious forms of domestic violence and are more likely to be killed or seriously injured by their partner, ex-partner or lover. However there are also male victims and domestic violence occurs in same sex relationships. Teenage girls aged 16-19 are most at risk of domestic abuse (British Crime Survey, 2011). Thirteen percent are likely to experience violence from their partners or ex-partners.

Children, Young People and Adults

Working Together (2015) does not identify on-line abuse as a separate category of abuse but notes that it can be a feature of emotional or sexual abuse. In respect of children and young people, the NSPCC offers this definition and summary description:

Online abuse is any type of abuse that happens on the web, whether through social networks, playing online games or using mobile phones. Children and young people may experience cyber bullying, grooming, sexual abuse, sexual exploitation or emotional abuse.

Children can be at risk of online abuse from people they know, as well as from strangers. Online abuse may be part of abuse that is taking place in the real world (for example bullying or grooming). Or it may be that the abuse only happens online (for example persuading children to take part in sexual activity online).

Children can feel like there is no escape from online abuse – abusers can contact them at any time of the day or night, the abuse can come into safe places like their bedrooms, and images and videos can be stored and shared with other people.

NSPCC website: Online abuse definition accessed August 2015

For adults the Care and Support Statutory Guidance issued under the Care Act 2014 (Department of Health) includes cyber bullying as a form of emotional abuse.

Examples of online abuse:

Cyber bullying is the term used to define various forms of psychological abuse akin to conventional bullying, communicated via the Internet. For example:

- sending obscene short text messages from the Internet
- sending obscene and offensive content and intimidating children via messenger applications
- obscene content conveyed during on line chats
- ridiculing a child by creating a profile or blog copies with false or humiliating information
- sending threats through communicators
- publishing private video footage or photographs of an individual without their consent.

Cyber-bullying usually occurs in the context of instant messenger applications such as Skype or MSN Messenger. However it may be more public, when it takes place in the context of public blogs or social networking sites such as FaceBook, or even media hosting sites such as YouTube.

Cellular phone tools such as SMS or photographic and video footage captured using a cellular phone may also be used as a means of cyber-bullying.

ONLINE ABUSE CONT'D

Grooming is the preparation and psychological manipulation of a child with the intent of sexual exploitation.

- the first step of grooming is to gain the trust of a minor, with the groomer presenting his/her actions as beneficial for the minor
- this may occur in the context of private communication via messenger programmes
- it may also occur in forums or social networking sites; the individual who is initiating the grooming may have some sort of stature or position in the website which makes it easier to form a relationship with a minor
- the goal of these interactions is to arrange a meeting with the minor, or to manipulate the minor so as to obtain pornography
- grooming can be the cause of psychological harm due to the techniques used by the groomer; it also creates a harmful model of minor-adult relationships.

Sexting is the term used to describe the sending of sexually suggestive or explicit messages or photographs, typically via mobile phone. While this can be consensual in the first instance, many images end up widely circulated or posted online, especially when relationships end. The originator quickly loses all control over the images, often with embarrassing, and potentially devastating consequences.

Addiction is the excessive use of the computer that interferes with daily life. To the extent that children and young people spend numerous hours playing computer games, chatting, or surfing the net while forgetting their responsibilities or even to eat.

Inappropriate content is a generic label for any sort of Internet content, whether verbal, visual or audio which may be illicit, dangerous, or age-inappropriate and yet publicly available.

Based on Cyberethics website information, August 2015
<http://www.cyberethics.info/cyethics1/>

Possible indicators of online abuse towards children, young people and adults:

Indicators are given here as examples only. They may be present in different types of abuse. They do not tell you that abuse is occurring and can have other non-abusive explanations. However they may alert you to the need to be aware of the possibility of abuse, to be observant and to record any concerns.

A child or adult may be experiencing abuse online if they:

- spend lots, much more or much less time online, texting, gaming or using social media
- are withdrawn, upset or outraged after using the internet or texting
- are secretive about who they're talking to and what they're doing online or on their mobile phone
- have lots of new phone numbers, texts or e-mail addresses on their mobile phone, laptop or tablet.

MODERN SLAVERY

Children, and Adults

Modern Slavery is an international crime, affecting an estimated **29.8 million slaves** around the world. It is a global problem that transcends age, gender and ethnicities, including here in the UK and it's important that we bring this hidden crime into the open.

It can include victims that have been brought from overseas, and vulnerable people in the UK, being forced to illegally work against their will in many different sectors, including brothels, cannabis farms, nail bars and agriculture.

Poverty, limited opportunities at home, lack of education, unstable social and political conditions, economic imbalances and war are some of the key drivers that contribute to trafficking of victims. What's more victims can often face more than one type of abuse and slavery, for example if they are sold to another trafficker and then forced into another form of exploitation.

<https://modernslavery.co.uk/index.html#>

Types of modern slavery:

- Child trafficking - Young people (under 18) are moved either internationally or domestically so they can be exploited.
- Forced labour / Debt bonding - Victims are forced to work to pay off debts that realistically they never will be able to. Low wages and increased debts mean not only that they cannot ever hope to pay off the loan, but the debt may be passed down to their children.
- Forced labour - Victims are forced to work against their will, often working very long hours for little or no pay in dire conditions under verbal or physical threats of violence to them or their families. It can happen in many sectors of our economy, from mining to tarmacking, hospitality and food packaging.
- Sexual exploitation - Victims are forced to perform non-consensual or abusive sexual acts against their will, such as prostitution, escort work and pornography. Whilst women and children make up the majority of victims, men can also be affected. Adults are coerced often under the threat of force, or another penalty.
- Criminal exploitation - Often controlled and maltreated, victims are forced into crimes such as cannabis cultivation or pick pocketing against their will.
- Domestic servitude - Victims are forced to carry out housework and domestic chores in private households with little or no pay, restricted movement, very limited or no free time and minimal privacy often sleeping where they work.

Signs of slavery in the UK and elsewhere are often hidden, making it even harder to recognise victims around us.

MODERN SLAVERY CONT'D**Possible indicators of modern slavery:**

- Signs of physical or psychological abuse e.g. looking malnourished or unkempt, appearing withdrawn.
- They may rarely be allowed to travel on their own, seem under the control, influence of others, rarely interact or appear unfamiliar with their neighbourhood or where they work.
- Victims may be living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation, and / or living and working at the same address.
- They may have no identification documents, have few personal possessions and always wear the same clothes day in day out. What clothes they do wear may not be suitable for their work.
- Victims have little opportunity to move freely and may have had their travel documents retained, e.g. passports.
- They may be dropped off / collected for work on a regular basis either very early or late at night.
- Victims may avoid eye contact, appear frightened or hesitant to talk to strangers and fear law enforcers for many reasons, such as not knowing who to trust or where to get help, fear of deportation, fear of violence to them or their family.