

Safeguarding Hints and Tips for those who visit homes during lockdown in Dudley



Self-Neglect - Signs to look out for include poor personal hygiene, unkempt appearance, lack of suitable clothing, looking thin or frail, and consider if someone has unexplained bruising or wounds.

Child Neglect - Neglect is the ongoing failure to meet a child's basic physical needs or psychological needs, or both. Signs to look out for include:

- A clear lack of adequate food, clothing and shelter.
- Failing to protect a child from physical and emotional harm or danger
- Doesn't supervise a child properly.
- Doesn't allow the child access to appropriate medical care or treatment.



Living conditions - signs to look out for include poor sanitation such as broken taps/broken toilet. Is the property cold / damp – lack of heating, extensive damp/growth of mould, can you see signs of damage including broken windows / holes in walls / doors off hinges and finally is there excessive clutter – possible signs of hoarding?



Think Family - Try to consider all the factors of everyone in the home, and frequent visitors, including things like poverty, use of drugs, alcohol, domestic abuse, and mental ill health, which may impact upon all the family.

Mental Capacity - Are you concerned that this person is confused due to possible lack of mental capacity such as those with dementia, a learning disability, mental health, and frailty?



Domestic abuse and Coercion and Control - Does the person seem nervous or frightened? Are they able to speak for themselves? Is there any evidence of physical violence such as bruising, cuts, verbal abuse and humiliation in front of others? Any damage to property?



Scams - Has the person said anything about paying for covid related services e.g. a covid test or early vaccination?

Signs to look out for include victims may now be experiencing financial hardship and show signs of self-neglect. They may talk about someone helpful who resolves issues, calls them or takes them for appointments, they may talk of unexpected final demands or refunds from a UK official, such as the HMRC or the local council, or talk of a new online relationship where they mostly have contact by telephone, email or on the internet and the person is in need of money.



What can you do? - Complete the free NSPCC course on our website called [Safeguarding for workers who visit or deliver to people's homes](#).

Safeguarding Children
0300 555 0050

Safeguarding Adults
0300 555 0055

If you have any concerns, please speak to your line manager/coordinator for advice and guidance.