

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse can be any type of sexual or indecent act or activity. Examples of sexual abuse can include:

- Rape, exposure to pornography and any physical sexual touching which the vulnerable adult does not want or does not truly understand
- Where a person is unable to give their informed consent
- Any sexual relationship that develops between adults where one is in a position of trust, power or authority in relation to the other, for example a day centre worker, social worker, residential care worker, or a health worker.

Signs and symptoms of sexual abuse can include:

- Unexplained changes in the character or behaviour of the adult
- Tendency to withdraw and spend time alone
- The vulnerable adult displaying sexual behaviour and / or language which is out of character
- Irregular or disturbed sleep pattern
- Bruising or bleeding in the rectal or genital areas
- Torn or stained underclothing especially with blood or semen
- Sexually transmitted disease or pregnancy where the vulnerable adult cannot give consent to sexual acts