

FACTSHEET – INDICATORS OF ABUSE

The following is a list of some indicators of abuse, but it is not exhaustive:

PHYSICAL INDICATORS	BEHAVIOURAL INDICATORS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unexplained bruising in soft tissue areas ▪ Repeated injuries ▪ Black eyes ▪ Injuries to the mouth ▪ Torn or bloodstained clothing ▪ Burns or scalds ▪ Bites ▪ Fractures ▪ Marks from implements ▪ Inconsistent stories/excuses relating to injuries 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unexplained changes in behaviour - becoming withdrawn or aggressive ▪ Difficulty in making friends ▪ Distrustful of adults or excessive attachment to adults ▪ Sudden drop in performance ▪ Changes in attendance pattern ▪ Inappropriate sexual awareness, behaviour or language ▪ Reluctance to remove clothing
ADDITIONALLY FOR VULNERABLE ADULTS: PHYSICAL	BEHAVIOURAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ not paying bills, not having normal home comforts. ▪ the person not receiving the care services they require, their carer being overly critical or making insulting remarks about the person, the person being made to dress differently from how they wish. ▪ vulnerable adult has no personal clothing or possessions, there is no care plan for him/her, s/he is often admitted to hospital ▪ instances of staff/volunteers having treated him/her badly or unsatisfactorily or acting in a way that causes harm; poor staff morale, high staff turnover and lack of clear lines of accountability and consistency of management. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ having unusual difficulty with finances, not having enough money, being too protective of money and things they own.