

It hurt me and made me so upset. But he told me he was in charge and it was alright and I mustn't tell anyone. Then he did it again.

HE BEAT ME AND PUSHED OVER MY WHEELCHAIR SO I FELL ON THE FLOOR. HE LEFT ME THERE WHILE HE WENT TO THE PUB WITH MY MONEY. HE'S SUPPOSED TO LOOK AFTER ME.

They call me 'mad schizo' and push me around on the corridor. It's been going on for seven years and it makes me feel so ill.

# Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee

## First biennial report

Help, advice and action



Adult Protection  
RENFREWSHIRE

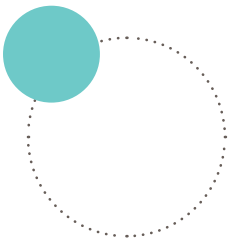
# Introduction

## Protecting Adults

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 is a law which aims to help protect people who may be at risk of being harmed or of being neglected. It came into force in October 2008.

The Act explains out who is considered to be an adult at risk of being harmed. This is someone:

- Who is 16 years old or more, and
- Who can't stop another person from harming, exploiting or neglecting them because they have a disability or they are mentally or physically ill. They may also be too frail to protect themselves.



## The Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee

This committee has been set up to coordinate the work of all the agencies responsible for protecting vulnerable adults. It has an independent chairperson, and is made up of people from Renfrewshire Council, Renfrewshire Community Health Partnership, Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire & Rescue, the Social Care and Social Work Improvement Service, and representatives of service providers and advocacy services.

The Adult Protection Committee is committed to raising public awareness about adult protection issues, and to working with other agencies, and with the wider community, to protect vulnerable people in Renfrewshire.

All Adult Protection Committees have to submit a report every two years to the Scottish Government (The Biennial Report) explaining what they have done to promote adult protection in their area.

Renfrewshire produced its first report in October 2010.



## What we have done?

We have run a TV campaign, a publicity campaign on billboards and buses and distributed posters and leaflets throughout Renfrewshire.

We have begun monitoring and auditing the work going on in relation to adult protection. This work will allow us to understand the quality of the work being done. It will also allow us to know what more we have to do to develop our practice and agree what further training should be developed.

We have implemented interagency policies and procedures.

We have developed an interagency training programme, and we have a joint training officer covering both Adult and Child Protection.

We held our first Adult Protection conference in Paisley Town Hall. Over 200 delegates from a wide range of statutory, voluntary and private organisations attended.

## Who have we protected?

In the period covered by the report (October 2008 – June 2010) there were 960 referrals about people who were thought to be at risk of harm. All of these referrals were scrutinised. A third of them were dealt with as adult protection issues, and 91 of these had a full and detailed investigation undertaken. Out of these people two thirds were men, and over half were older people.

A quarter of referrals were about people who were suspected of being exploited or harmed financially and around another quarter were people thought to have been physically harmed

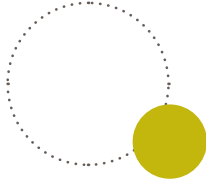
The great majority of harm occurs in the person's own home.

## What are our priorities for the next two years?

The Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee is committed to evaluating its own performance and working to improve that performance. To this end the agenda for the next two years includes:

- Ensuring people who use services, carers and other stakeholders in the work of protecting vulnerable adults in Renfrewshire are all effectively involved
- Planning and implementing an ongoing training programme across all agencies
- Continuing to develop and refine robust performance reporting, monitoring and audit systems
- Exploring ways to strengthen local consultation and engagement
- Continuing to promote effective interagency work and improve knowledge and learning across agencies
- Considering arrangements for effective links with Child Protection and other public protection activity in Renfrewshire

*They had parties here in my flats completely wrecked the place. Then they forced me to hand over my money. I thought they were my friends... I'd been really lonely.*



## What is harm?

There are many things that harm a person. Here are some examples:

**Physical:** hitting, slapping, pushing, shaking, locking a person in a room, tying them to a chair, restricting their freedom.

**Psychological:** threatening to harm a person, threatening to stop them seeing family or friends, threatening to leave them alone, leaving them alone, humiliating them, causing distress, verbal abuse, bullying, blaming, constant criticism, controlling, intimidation.

**Neglect:** not providing medical or physical care (heating, food, drinks, bathing, clean clothes and bedding), not providing access to a doctor, not giving someone medicine they need, not giving someone privacy or dignity. People can also suffer neglect if they become unable to care for themselves.

**Financial:** stealing from an at risk adult, committing fraud, pressuring them to hand over or sign over their cash or property, stopping someone getting their money or possessions, stealing their benefits, taking over their home.

**Sexual:** any sexual activity that a person doesn't want or understand, taking explicit photos, sexual harassment, voyeurism.

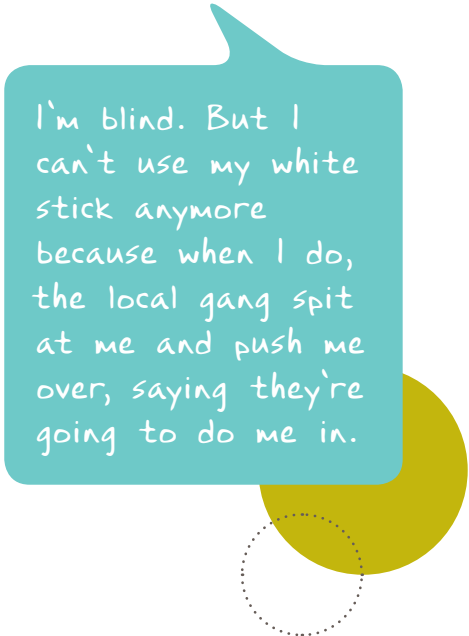
**Information:** withholding information or advice from a person about their rights or things that they are entitled to.

## Who can help?

The Renfrewshire Adult Protection Committee has been set up to coordinate the work of all the agencies responsible for protecting vulnerable adults.

Council officers now have the power to visit and interview people who may be vulnerable, to arrange medical examinations and to examine records to check if a person is being harmed. They can also use new protection orders to ban a person from the place where there is an adult at risk of harm, or to take the adult to safe place.

The Police will investigate any crimes committed when an adult has suffered harm.



I'm blind. But I can't use my white stick anymore because when I do, the local gang spit at me and push me over, saying they're going to do me in.

## Possible signs of harm

- Unexplained or unusual injuries, bruising
- Weight loss
- Soiled clothing or bedding
- A delay in getting injuries or an illness treated
- A sudden increase in confusion
- An unexplained deterioration in health or the way someone looks
- Misuse of medication for example medicines not being given properly
- Unexplained changes in how someone is behaving for example becoming anxious or withdrawn or being afraid of another person
- Pressure by family or professionals to have someone moved into or taken out of care
- Unexplained debts or bills not being paid for services like gas or electricity
- Basic needs not being met such as having enough food or heating
- Another person using the adult's possessions, bank account, benefits or home without their permission or without them being able to understand what is going on
- Someone using harsh or abusive language towards an adult or being cruel or unkind.


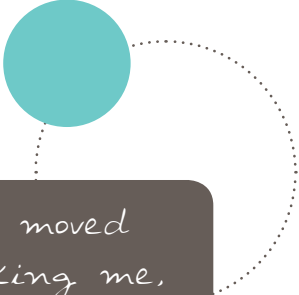
## Where can harm happen?

Anywhere. It can happen at home, on a hospital ward, in a care home, at a social club or day centre, at work or in a public place.

## Who can cause harm?

Anyone. It could be a brother, sister, son, daughter or other relative. It could be a husband or wife, a friend or neighbour, a carer, a volunteer or a stranger.

**Call 0141 207 7878** if you think an adult is being harmed or neglected.



*My daughter moved in without asking me, eats my food, steals my pension and pays for nothing. I'm so frail I can't make her leave.*

For more information on Adult Protection, and for a full copy of the Biennial Report, please visit: [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk)