Who should I contact?

If the person is in immediate danger, dial 999.

Otherwise contact your local Social Services:

Arran
01770 600742

Garnock Valley Area
01505 684551

Irvine Area
01294 310300

Largs Area
01475 687592

Three Towns Area
01294 605261

Ayrshire Out of Hours Service
0800 328 7758

Or email us at:
adultprotection@north-ayrshire.gsx.gov.uk

This document can also be made available in other formats such as audiotape, CD, braille and in large print. It can also be made in other languages, on request.

Are you worried about yourself or another adult? Are you or someone you know at risk of harm?

A guide to identifying and helping Adults at Risk of Harm

www.north-ayrshire.gov.uk
If you are worried that you or someone you know is being harmed, or is suffering from neglect it is important to tell someone.

The person who is being harmed or neglected may not be able to report it themselves.

Everyone has the right to be safe and free from harm.

**What do we mean by “Adult”?**

Anyone over 16 years old.

Although the information in this leaflet relates specifically to adults, if you are worried about someone under 16 years old you can still use the contacts in this leaflet to get advice about how to report your concerns.

**What is harm?**

Harm is any harmful conduct.

Some examples of this include:

- **Physical**: hitting, slapping, pushing, shaking, locking them in a room.
- **Psychological**: threats of harm, being left alone, humiliation, intimidation, causing distress, verbal abuse, bullying, blaming, constant criticism, controlling, depriving contact with others.
- **Neglect**: failure to provide medical or physical care, access to a doctor or other services, denying someone medication, food or heating, privacy or dignity and self neglect and self harm.

- **Financial**: stealing, fraud, pressure to hand over or sign over property or money, misuse of property or welfare benefits, or stopping someone getting their money or possessions.
- **Sexual**: any sexual activity that a person doesn’t understand and/or want.

**What can I do?**

Don’t ignore it. Use the contacts on this leaflet to tell someone about your concerns.

**Do you need to give your name?**

Any information you give will be treated with care. If you do not give your name, enquiries can still be made into the person’s care and welfare.

**What will happen next?**

Councils, health, police staff and other public agencies, must work together to protect “adults at risk”.

Councils have a duty to make inquiries where harm is known or suspected.

Your concerns will be taken seriously.

There are Council Officers who are specially trained Social Workers who will work to enable the safety of the adult and may visit and interview people and consider the need for advocacy or other services for the adult or their family or carers.

**Who can cause harm?**

Anyone could cause harm.

It could be a:

- member of staff in any setting;
- carer;
- friend or neighbour;
- partner, family member or relative
- volunteer or:
- stranger.

**Where can harm happen?**

Harm can happen anywhere

It can happen in the family home, hospital ward, care home, day services, social clubs, day centres, at work and in public places.

**Legislation**

The Scottish Government has introduced legislation to protect people from being harmed. It is called the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007.

This law respects an individual’s right to have their wishes and feelings taken into account and to have the minimum amount of intervention into their personal life.