

01 Background:

Sexual abuse includes any sexual act to which an adult has not consented and may not understand.

For example, being touched or kissed when it is not wanted, being made to touch or kiss someone else, being raped or sexually assaulted, being made to listen to sexual comments or forced to look at sexual acts or materials. Any sexual activity that the person lacks capacity to consent to.

Why it matters:

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Sexual abuse is a personal and destructive crime. Its effects can be psychological, emotional and/or physical, and the damage may last a lifetime.

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What to do?

If a person is in immediate danger ring 999.

Call 0300 303 8886 to speak to someone in Rochdale's Adult's Social Care about your concerns.

Out of office hours, you can contact 0300 303 8875.

Questions to consider:

Watch for:

Incontinence not related to any medical diagnosis. Irregular or disturbed sleep patterns
Unexplained changes in the character or behaviour of the adult. Poor concentration or tendency to withdraw and spend time alone. Fear of receiving help with personal care.

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Information:

Look for:

Bruising, particularly to the thighs, buttocks and upper arms and marks on the neck. Torn, stained or bloody underclothing. Bleeding, pain or itching in the genital area. Pregnancy or sexually transmitted infection in a woman who is unable to consent to sexual intercourse. Unusual difficulty in walking or sitting. Uncharacteristic use of explicit sexual language or significant changes in sexual behaviour or attitude. Self-harming
Reluctance to be alone with a particular person.

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Information: Sexual abuse can occur in any relationship. It may be a form of domestic abuse. 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 is abusive.

Sexual abuse can include:

Rape, attempted rape or sexual assault, inappropriate touching, non- consensual masturbation of either or both persons, non- consensual sexual penetration or attempted penetration of the vagina, anus or mouth, any sexual activity that the person lacks the capacity to consent to, inappropriate looking, sexual teasing or innuendo or sexual harassment, sexual photography or forced use of pornography or witnessing of sexual acts of indecent exposure

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