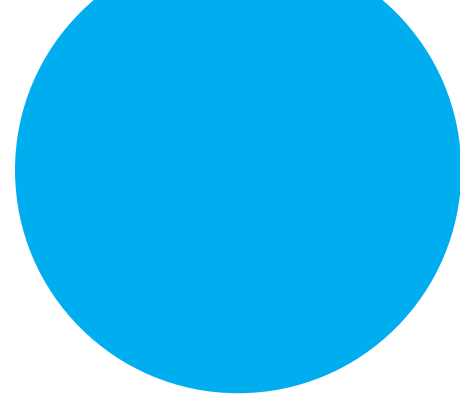


Signs and symptoms of abuse



Signs and symptoms of abuse can be broadly grouped into three areas:

- physical indicators
- behavioural indicators
- emotioen-GBHowever, the observation of multiple signs and symptoms, together with explanations wh inconsistent or do not 'ring true', should give more cause for concern.

\$V LQ 6HFWLRQ RI *RRG 3UDFWLFH DEXVH GH¿QHG LQ FRYHUHG ¿UVW KHUH IROORZHG E\ DGGLWLRQDO GHWDLO combine these different types of abuse.

' H ¿ Q L W X V R Q Q W D W X W R G D Q S H U R F H G X U H V

England: Children

- Physical abuse
- 6H[XDO DEXVH
- Emotional abuse
- Neglect.

England: Adults

- Physical
- 6H[XDO DEXVH
- 3V\FKRORJLFDQ DEXVH
- 1HJOHFW DQG DFWV RI RPLVVLRQ
-)LQDQFUDQWHULDO DEXVH
- Domestic abuse
- Organisational abuse
- Self-neglect
- Modern slavery
- Discriminatory abuse.

- Psychological and emotional abuse •

(PRWLROO

There might not be any obvious physical signs of emotional abuse and a child might not tell anyone what's happening until they reach a 'crisis point'. As children grow up, their emotions

:KDWLWLEOEHV	Signs you may see
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conveying to a child that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person • Not giving the child opportunities to express their views • Deliberately silencing them or 'making fun' of what they say or how they communicate • Age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children • Overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning • Preventing the child participating in normal social interaction • Seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another • Serious bullying (including cyber bullying) • Causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger. 	<p>Children who are being emotionally abused might:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VHHPERGHWRUODFNVHOIDVVVXDEH • struggle to control their emotions • KDMGLIFOWPDNLBUPDLWDLCOHODWLROKLSV • act in a way that's inappropriate for their age. <p>Babies and pre-school children who are being emotionally abused or neglected might:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be overly-affectionate to strangers or people they don't know well • VHHPERGHWRURUDPRX • not have a close relationship or bond with their parent • be aggressive or cruel towards other children or animals. <p>Older children might:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • use language or know about things you wouldn't expect them to understand at their age • act in a way or know about things you wouldn't expect them to know for their age • have extreme outbursts • seem isolated from their parents • lack social skills • have few or no friends.

:KDWLWEOGHV	Signs you may see
	<p>Changes in behaviour:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • becoming clingy • becoming aggressive • being withdrawn, depressed or anxious • changes in eating habits • displaying obsessive behaviour • QDWDUGWRFREHWUDWHRUWDNHSDUWLQ activities • missing school • showing signs of self-harm • using drugs or alcohol.

:KDWLWEOGHV	Signs you may see
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rape • Indecent exposure • Sexual harassment • Inappropriate looking or touching • Sexual teasing or innuendo • 6HOSKRWRWDSKRU@PLQ • “Revenge porn” • Subjection to pornography or • Witnessing sexual acts • Sexual assault • Sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (FHVVLMIH DUDSSUHKHQLRIRU withdrawal from, relationships • Fear of receiving help with personal care • Reluctance to be alone with a particular person • Self-harming • Poor concentration, withdrawal • Sleep disturbance • The uncharacteristic use of explicit sexual ODH RUVLQJ DQFKD@VLOHPO behaviour or attitude • Bruising, particularly to the thighs, buttocks and upper arms and marks on the neck • Pregnancy in someone who is unable to consent to sexual intercourse.

:KDWLWEOGHV	Signs you may see
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enforced social isolation – preventing someone accessing services, educational and social opportunities and seeing friends • Removing mobility or communication aids or intentionally leaving someone unattended when they need assistance • Preventing someone from meeting their religious and cultural needs • Preventing the expression of choice and opinion • Failure to respect privacy • Preventing stimulation, meaningful occupation or activities • Intimidation, coercion, harassment, use of threats, humiliation, bullying, swearing or verbal abuse • Addressing a person in a patronising or infantilising way • Threats of harm or abandonment • Cyber bullying. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An air of silence when a particular person is present • Withdrawal or change in the psychological state of the person • Insomnia • Low self-esteem • Uncooperative and aggressive behaviour • \$KDBRIDSSHVLWHZLKWORVVDLQ • Signs of distress: tearfulness, anger • Apparent false claims, by someone involved with the person, to attract unnecessary treatment.

:KDWLWEOGHV	Signs you may see
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ignoring medical, emotional or physical care needs • Failure to provide access to appropriate health, care and support or educational services • The withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An out of character failure to engage in social interaction and activities • Inconsistent or reluctant contact with support, such as medical and social care organisations • Poor personal hygiene • Inappropriate or inadequate clothing • Poor state of home environment • Malnutrition or unexplained weight loss • Untreated injuries and medical problems • Accumulation of untaken medication.

:KDWLWEOGHV	Signs you may see
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FKDOLWKXHRHWKHSKRQHPDLOIRU HPSOHDODUJHEHURISHUVRQOFDOOV texts, avoiding calls or a strong reaction to FDOOVWHVWHPDLOV • spending an increased amount of hours at work for no reason. <p>Other signs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partner or ex-partner following employee in or around the workplace or Church setting or repeatedly turning up at the workplace or Church setting • partner or ex-partner exerting unusual amount of control or demands over work schedule or social activities • RZUVUWVWHWRHPSORHHRUR apparent reason •

:KDWLWEOGHV	Signs you may see
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of self-care to an extent that it threatens personal health and safety • Neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings • Inability to avoid self-harm • Failure to seek help or access services to meet health and social care needs • Inability or unwillingness to manage one's personal affairs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very poor personal hygiene, wearing the same clothes every day • Unkempt appearance • DFNRIHVH0/LDOIRRGFORWKL0UVKHOWHU heating • 0DO0VULWLR0GRUGHKGDWLRQ • Living in squalid or unsanitary conditions. Neglecting household maintenance • Hoarding • Collecting a large number of animals in inappropriate conditions • Non-compliance with health or care services, Inability or unwillingness to take medication or treat illness or injury.

:KDWLWEOGHV	Signs you may see
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="108 255 718 331">• RDUUDIENL moved from one place to another into a	

:KDWLWEOGHV	Signs you may see
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unequal treatment based on age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion and belief, sex or sexual orientation (known as ‘protected characteristics’ under the Equality Act 2010) • Verbal abuse, derogatory remarks or inappropriate use of language related to a protected characteristic • Denying access to communication aids, not allowing access to an interpreter, signer or lip-reader • Harassment or deliberate exclusion on the grounds of a protected characteristic • Denying basic rights to healthcare, education, employment and criminal justice relating to a protected characteristic • Substandard service provision relating to a protected characteristic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overhearing harassment or abuse • A person appearing to be excluded from activities or groups for discriminatory reasons • The support on offer does not take account of the person’s individual needs in terms of a protected characteristic • The person appears withdrawn and isolated • Expressions of anger, frustration, fear or anxiety.

:KDWLWEOGHV	Signs you may see
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, control, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into any criminal activity: <p>a) in exchange for something the victim needs</p> <p>RUZZVDGRU</p> <p>E IRUWKHDEL DORURWKHUDGDDWDRIRWKH SHUSHWUDWRURUIDFLOLWDWRUDGRU</p> <p>c) through violence or the threat of violence.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Victim may have been criminally exploited even if the activity appears consensual • Child criminal exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology • It also includes ‘County Lines’, a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other form of ‘deal lines’. They are likely to exploit children and vulnerable adults to move and store the drugs and money, and they will often use coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequently absent from and doing badly in school • Going missing from home, staying out late and travelling for unexplained reasons • In a relationship or hanging out with someone older than them • Being angry, aggressive or violent. Being isolated or withdrawn • Having unexplained money and buying new things • Wearing clothes or accessories in gang colours or getting tattoos • Using new slang words • Spending more time on social media and being secretive about time online • Making more calls or sending more texts, possibly on a new phone or phones • Self-harming and feeling emotionally unwell • Taking drugs and abusing alcohol • Committing petty crimes like shop lifting or vandalism • Unexplained injuries and refusing to seek medical help • Carrying weapons or having a dangerous breed of dog.

:KDWLWEOGHV	Signs you may see
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This can include physical, sexual, emotional abuse directed at a child by another child. The signs and symptoms of these are described in the relevant sections above • It can also include bullying which is intentional behaviour to hurt someone. This includes name calling, hitting, spreading rumours, threatening or undermining someone. It can happen anywhere – at school, at home, online, at work or in church. <p>Cyberbullying can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • sending threatening or abusive text messages • creating and sharing embarrassing images or videos • trolling – the sending of menacing or upsetting messages on social networks, chat rooms or online games • shaming someone online • encouraging someone to self-harm • revenge porn. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being afraid to go to school or youth groups (or work or church) • Being mysteriously ‘ill’ each morning, or becoming distressed and withdrawn • Problems with eating or sleeping • Belongings getting ‘lost’ or damaged • Spending a lot more or a lot less time than usual online, texting, gaming or using social media • Seem distant, upset or angry after using the internet or texting • Being secretive about who they’re talking to and what they’re doing online or on their mobile phone • Physical injuries, such as unexplained bruises • Not doing as well at school • Asking for, or stealing, money (to give to whoever’s bullying them) • Bullying others.

:KDWLWEOGHV	Signs you may see
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 now recognises that children are victims of domestic abuse as well as their parents. <p>This can occur:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • due to witnessing domestic abuse between family members • for 16-17 year olds, within their own intimate relationships. 	<p>It may be harder to detect in children than adults, but signs you might see include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aggression or bullying • anti-social behaviour • anxiety, depression or suicidal thoughts •• attention seeking •

:KDWLWEOGHV	Signs you may see
<p>This can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • abuse as a result of a child being accused of being a ‘witch’ • abuse as a result of a child being accused of being possessed by ‘evil spirits’ • ritualistic abuse which is prolonged sexual, physical and psychological abuse • satanic abuse which is carried out in the name of ‘satan’ and may have links to cults • any other harmful practice linked to a belief or faith. <p>A range of factors can contribute to the abuse of a child for reasons of faith or belief, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • belief in evil spirits that can ‘possess’ children is often accompanied by a belief that a possessed child can ‘infect’ others • A child could be singled out as the cause of misfortune within the home, such as or death 	

:KDWLWEOGHV	Signs you may see
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:KDWLWEXHV	Signs you may see
<p>Spiritual abuse is a form of emotional and psychological abuse. It is characterised by a systematic pattern of coercive and controlling behaviour in a religious context. Spiritual abuse can have a deeply damaging impact on those who experience it and can be experienced in a variety of different relationships. This abuse may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • manipulation and exploitation • enforced accountability • requirements for secrecy and silence • coercion to conform, for example, seeking to enforce rather than encourage behavioural changes; failing to allow an individual autonomy to make their own choices • exercising control through using sacred texts or teaching to coerce behaviour • requirement of obedience to the abuser • the suggestion that the abuser has a 'divine' position • isolation as a means of punishment • superiority and elitism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use of scripture to justify abusive behaviour • Use of scripture to manipulate or force a person into acts they would not wish to consent to • A warning sign of spiritual abuse can be exercising control through invoking fear of spiritual consequences for disobedience. The issue is not the discussion of spiritual consequences as provided in the Bible, but the exercise of control over another person through instrumentalising their fear • Exercising control through the suggestion that obedience to the abuser is equivalent to obedience to God • Emotional manipulation in the guise of righteousness • Being manipulated or feeling pressured into service or conformity • Feeling unable to say no to increasing demands for time, service and obedience • Pressure to conform to expectations and believe exactly the same as others in the church.

:KDWLWEOGHV	Signs you may see
<p>and emotional abuse.</p> <p>Those who are more vulnerable to Mate Crime include people:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • with a learning disability • experiencing mental health issues • with no close family or friends • with a physical disability • with verbal communication constraints • who are isolated from the community • who have low self-worth or esteem. <p>Mate Crime:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • starts with people saying they are their target's friend • does not start with bullying but can become bullying 	