

## Appendix 4.3 Definitions and indicators of abuse (Care Act 2014)

### Types of Abuse and Neglect

There are different types and patterns of abuse and neglect and different circumstances in which they may take place. The Care Act 2014 identifies the following as an illustrative guide and is not intended to be exhaustive list as to the sort of behaviour which could give rise to a safeguarding concern.

**Self-neglect** – this covers a wide range of behaviour: neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.

**Modern Slavery** – encompasses slavery, human trafficking, forced labour and domestic servitude. Traffickers and slave masters use whatever means they have at their disposal to coerce, deceive and force individuals into a life of abuse, servitude and inhumane treatment

**Domestic Abuse and coercive control** – including psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional abuse. It also includes so called 'honour' based violence. It can occur between any family members.

**Discriminatory Abuse** – discrimination is abuse which centres on a difference or perceived difference particularly with respect to race, gender or disability or any of the protected characteristics of the Equality Act.

**Organisational Abuse** – including neglect and poor care practice within an institution or specific care setting such as a hospital or care home, for example, or in relation to care provided in one's own home. This may range from one off incidents to on-going ill-treatment. It can be through neglect or poor professional practice as a result of the structure, policies, processes and practices within an organisation.

**Physical Abuse** – including hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions.

**Sexual Abuse** – including rape, indecent exposure, sexual harassment, inappropriate looking or touching, sexual teasing or innuendo, sexual photography, subjection to pornography or witnessing sexual acts, indecent exposure and sexual assault or sexual acts to which the adult has not consented or was pressured into consenting.

**Financial or Material Abuse** – including theft, fraud, internet

scamming, coercion in relation to an adult's financial affairs or arrangements, including in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

**Neglect** – including ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating.

**Emotional or Psychological Abuse** – this includes threats of harm or abandonment, deprivation of contact, humiliation, blaming, controlling, intimidation, coercion, harassment, verbal abuse, isolation or withdrawal from services or supportive networks.

Not included in the Care Act 2014 but also relevant:

**Cyber Bullying** – cyber bullying occurs when someone repeatedly makes fun of another person online or repeatedly picks on another person through emails or text messages, or uses online forums with the intention of harming, damaging, humiliating or isolating another person. It can be used to carry out many different types of bullying (such as racist bullying, homophobic bullying, or bullying related to special educational needs and disabilities) but instead of the perpetrator carrying out the bullying face-to-face, they use technology as a means to do it.

**Forced Marriage** – forced marriage is a term used to describe a marriage in which one or both of the parties are married without their consent or against their will. A forced marriage differs from an arranged marriage, in which both parties consent to the assistance of a third party in identifying a spouse. The Anti-social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014 make it a criminal offence to force someone to marry. The forced marriage of adults with learning disabilities occurs when the adult does not have the capacity to consent to the marriage.

**Mate Crime** – a 'mate crime' as defined by the Safety Net Project as 'when vulnerable people are befriended by members of the community who go on to exploit and take advantage of them. It may not be an illegal act but still has a negative effect on the individual.' Mate Crime is carried out by someone the adult knows and often happens in private. In recent years there have been a number of Serious Case Reviews relating to people with a learning disability who were murdered or seriously harmed by people who purported to be their friend.

**Radicalisation** – the aim of radicalisation is to attract people to



their reasoning, inspire new recruits and embed their extreme views and persuade vulnerable individuals of the legitimacy of their cause. This may be direct through a relationship, or through social media.

## **Signs and indicators of abuse and neglect**

Abuse can take place in any context and by all manner of perpetrator. Abuse may be inflicted by anyone in the club who a person comes into contact with. Or club members, workers, volunteers or others may suspect that a person is being abused or neglected outside of the club setting. There are many signs and indicators that may suggest someone is being abused or neglected, these include but are not limited to:

- Unexplained bruises or injuries – or lack of medical attention when an injury is present.
- Person has belongings or money going missing.
- Person is not attending / no longer enjoying their participation. you may notice that a participant has been missing from training sessions and is not responding to reminders from members or instructors.
- Someone losing or gaining weight / an unkempt appearance. this could be a person whose appearance becomes unkempt, does not wear suitable clothing and equipment and suffers a deterioration in hygiene.
- A change in the behaviour or confidence of a person. For example, a participant may be looking quiet and withdrawn when their brother comes to collect them from sessions, in contrast to others who they greet with a smile.
- They may self-harm.
- They may have a fear of a particular group or individual.
- They may tell you/another person they are being abused – *i.e.* a disclosure.
- Harassing of a club member because they are or are perceived to have protected characteristics.
- Not meeting the needs of the participant, *e.g.* this could be training anomalies.
- An instructor intentionally striking a student.
- This could be a fellow member who sends unwanted sexually explicit text messages to a learning disabled adult.
- This could be a member threatening another member with physical harm and persistently blaming them for poor outcomes.

## **Good practice, poor practice and abuse**

It can be difficult to distinguish poor practice from abuse, whether intentional or accidental.

It is not the responsibility of any individual involved in BSAC to make judgements regarding whether or not abuse is taking place, however, all BSAC members have the responsibility to recognise and identify poor practice and potential abuse, and act on this if they have concerns.

The Club should:

- Aim to make the experience of BSAC fun and enjoyable.
- Promote fairness and playing by the rules and Safe Diving policy.
- Not tolerate the use of prohibited or illegal substances.

Treat all adults equally and preserve their dignity; this includes giving more and less talented members of a group similar attention, time and respect.