



Health & Social Care Moray

Media release

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‘See something? Say something’ adult support and protection campaign urges

What would you do if you had concerns about an adult who may be at risk of harm?

Health & Social Care Moray is asking the ‘See something? Say something’ question in the run-up to a national awareness raising campaign which urges people to act if they are worried that someone is being harmed, neglected or taken advantage of.

The integrated health and social care partnership is backing the Scottish Government’s Adult Protection Day being marked on February 20 to highlight the message that the abuse of vulnerable people is completely unacceptable but sadly can go unnoticed.

Most adults can protect themselves or have support to make sure they are safe and well. Some adults find it more difficult to look after and stand up for themselves because of their age, illness, disability or personal circumstances and may be taken advantage of by those close to them or by strangers. They may also unintentionally put themselves at risk.

Adult harm can take place anywhere – in the home, at work, in a public place, in a care home, day service or hospital. It can also take many forms including neglect, physical, psychological, sexual or financial exploitation.

Local communities have an important role to play in preventing and reporting harm so that action can be taken and at-risk adults get the help and support they need.

In 2016/17, 590 adult at risk referrals were made in Moray. Of these 197 were passed to the Adult Protection Unit for further scrutiny.

Marie Noble, Consultant Practitioner Adult Support & Protection, said: “If you thought a child was at risk of harm you would do something about it and it should be no different for an adult. Adult harm can affect anybody but people who find it difficult to look after their own interests or stand up for themselves are at particular risk.

“We all have a duty to look out for people in our community and it is important people act their suspicions. It may be nothing but it is vital people overcome any fears they may have of being seen to intrude or that they may be wrong about the situation and report a concern which will be looked into sensitively.”



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It's not always easy to tell if an adult is in trouble. Signs and situations to be aware of include someone:

- Giving money to someone for reasons that concern you or being confused about where their money has gone;
- Having cuts, bruises or marks they can't explain or try to hide; being withdrawn around certain people;
- Persistently having friends or strangers 'hanging out' at their house, being verbally bullied or being encouraged to take part in an illegal or socially unacceptable activity;
- Being sexually harassed or intimidated or who becomes upset when a relationship is mentioned;
- Is not looking after themselves or their property or is becoming socially isolated.

If you or someone you are aware of is at risk of harm then don't ignore it. Contact Health & Social Care Moray's Access Team on 01343 563999 or email accesscareteam@moray.gov.uk so your concerns can be checked out.

The matter will be dealt with sensitively and confidentially and the adult's wishes will be taken into consideration, with access to advocacy services provided to help them be heard.

If someone is in immediate danger call 999.

The Act Against Harm website – www.actagainstharm.org – provides further advice and support including information on how to recognise when an adult may be at risk of harm and examples of the type of support that can be provided once a concern has been reported.

ENDS

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