

7 minute briefing: Financial Abuse

- 1. Background.** Financial abuse is the term used to describe harming someone by defrauding them of their money, goods or property. Financial abuse is never acceptable, no matter how minor it may seem. Financial abuse is a crime.
- 2. Why it matters.** Adults at risk of harm are people aged 18 or over who are unable to protect themselves from harm or exploitation due to learning or physical disabilities, sensory impairment, frailty or mental health problems.
- 3. Information.** Financial abuse can happen to people anywhere and at any time and affects people from all types of backgrounds. It can happen in a person's home, care home, day care centre, hospital, or in a public place.
- 4. Definition of financial abuse.** Financial abuse is the use of a person's property, assets, income, funds or any resources without their informed consent or authorisation. It includes theft, fraud, and exploitation, undue pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions. Financial abuse is also the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits, the misuse of an enduring power or attorney or a lasting power of attorney, or Appointeeship or deputyship. More information is available [here](#).
- 5. Spot the signs.** What are the signs of financial abuse? Unexplained withdrawals from the bank, unusual activity in the bank accounts, unpaid bills. Unexplained shortage of money. Reluctance on the part of the person with responsibility for the funds to provide basic food and clothes etc., an unusual interest from a family member, friend, carer or salesperson in the financial affairs of the adult.
- 6. What to watch for.**
 - An unexplained inability to pay for household shopping or bills
 - Personal possessions which go missing from the person's home
 - Living conditions are low compared to the money the person receives
- 7. Report a concern.** Contact Adult Social Care on 0161 217 6029 or by using the [online portal](#). To report concerns out of office hours contact 0161 718 2118 or adultsocialcare@stockport.gov.uk
In the event of an emergency contact Greater Manchester Police on 101 or 999.