

<b>ELEMENT</b>	<b>SERIOUS (Level1)</b>	<b>SUBSTANTIAL (Level 2)</b>	<b>EXTREMELY SERIOUS (Level 3)</b>
<b>1. Whether the abuse was a one off event or part of a long standing relationship or pattern</b>	Isolated incident	Recent abuse in an ongoing relationship	Repeated abuse which has gone on for over 12 months
<b>2. The impact of the abuse on the physical and/or mental health of the alleged victim</b>	Short term( can take it in their stride)	Lasting distress or injury	Potentially life threatening
<b>3. The impact on others e.g. children, others relatives or residents/service users</b>	No one else involved or witnessing abuse	Other relatives/residents are disturbed or distressed about the abuse	Others are extremely intimidated and/or their environment distorted
<b>4. The intent of the person alleged to be responsible for the abuse</b>	Inadvertent or ill informed	Violent/serious unprofessional response to difficulties in caring	Planned and deliberately malicious
<b>5. The illegality of the alleged perpetrators action(s)</b>	Poor or bad practice but not illegal	Maybe against the law	Clearly a criminal offence
<b>6. The risk of the abuse being repeated against this adult client</b>	Very unlikely	Not if significant changes are made e.g. training, supervision, respite or support	Very likely even if changes are made and/or more support provided
<b>7. The risk that abuse will be repeated against other vulnerable adults or children</b>	No, very unlikely	This alleged perpetrator/ setting may change but supervision/ training needed	This alleged perpetrator/ setting represents a threat to other vulnerable adults or children
<b>8. Degree of vulnerability of service user/ support needed</b>	Limited vulnerability/ little support	Can be managed with support	Extremely vulnerable and support needed

This tool is designed to assist judgements on the level of seriousness of the alleged abuse. Seriousness is broken down into 9 elements, plotting the score of each element on the table will help in reaching an overall judgement and in demonstrating how the judgement was reached. It will also help inform the level of response as set out in the Levels of Response to Safeguarding Adults Situations. All of the situations are serious but some will need a higher level of response. This tool must be used:

- In the initial discussion between Care Manager/ Team Manager to assess the initial level of response.
- At any subsequent formal safeguarding meeting to inform risk assessment, management and protection summary.

It is recommended that Care Managers take a completed “seriousness tool” to every formal safeguarding meeting to inform the judgements of that meeting .

TYPE OF ABUSE	SERIOUS plot on continuum			EXTREMELY SERIOUS	
<b>Physical</b>	bruising	lesions	assault requiring attendance at casualty or other medical treatment	assault with weapon and/or leading to irreversible damage	grievous bodily harm or attempted murder
<b>Sexual</b>	non contact abuse including verbal harassment	sexual touch	masturbation	attempted penetration	rape
<b>Psychological</b>	occasional teasing, taunts or verbal outbursts	frequent verbal outbursts	humiliation and threats on a regular basis	vicious and personalised attacks	repeated verbal assaults, threats and intimidation
<b>Financial/ Material</b>	petty cash fiddled	belongings taken	no control of personal finances	fraud including property or will	fraud to extent that person risks destitution
<b>Neglect</b>	lack of care leads to discomfort or inconvenience such as being left wet occasionally	lack of care to extent that bedsores or other medical complications develop	ongoing neglect such as causes malnutrition or other illness	failure to access life saving services or medical care	neglect of medication or psychological needs leading to fear for survival
<b>Discriminatory (based on all possible areas of difference)</b>	occasional harassment or related to issues of difference	having difficulty getting access to services	being refused access to services or essential support services	being taunted, harassed and threatened leading fears for safety	hate crime resulting in injury or fear for life