

Source: Safeguarding Adults Board

We know that social isolation is an increasing risk factor in relation to abuse and neglect. In particular, we know that incidences of domestic abuse, self-neglect and carer stress will increase with social isolation.

Social isolation can mean:

- Abuse/neglect is hidden from professionals or others
- People do not get the support they need
- People feel like they do not want to ask for help for fear of being an added burden
- Increased household stress and tension
- People ask for help from people who might want to take advantage of their vulnerable position

Some advice to consider:

- Use existing tools and guidance to assess risk
- Ensure you factor in Covid-19 pressures to any risk assessments
- As always, consider mental capacity, control and coercion on a person's ability to make decisions and keep themselves safe
- Seek advice from the Safeguarding Adults Unit/Team if you need to

Plans to manage risk might include:

- Seeking advice from Creative Support Senior Managers
- Seeking advice from Creative Support Safeguarding Lead
- Seeking advice from Out of Hours
- Seeking advice from Social Worker/Care Manager
- Referring the case to safeguarding adults procedures if appropriate
- Referral to domestic abuse or carer support agencies

Information from Women's Aid

“We know that COVID-19 will have serious impacts on the lives of women and children. Survivors are telling us that they are feeling unsafe with the prospect of being isolated in the house with their perpetrator. We want to reassure survivors and local specialist services that we are here for you and we will be doing everything we can to support you during this challenging time.”

<https://bit.ly/3c5iJDS>