



Signs of physical abuse



Physical abuse is an act involving contact, intended to cause feelings of physical pain, injury, or other physical suffering or bodily harm to hurt someone intentionally.

Signs of physical abuse may include:

- An adult reports being hit, slapped, kicked, or mistreated
- Bruising, fractures, or burns
- Bed sores
- Open wounds, cuts, punctures
- Untreated injuries in various stages of healing
- A sudden change in behaviour by an adult
- Caregiver's refusal to allow visitors to see a vulnerable adult alone
- Unexplained weight loss

If you recognise any of these signs and are concerned an adult is the victim of abuse, then it's essential you act on your concerns. 'Speaking out' about abuse could save somebody's life. If you are worried that an adult may be at risk of abuse or harm, please contact:



023 8083 3003
southampton.gov.uk/speakout

If there is an immediate threat to their safety, contact the police by calling 999.