Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is involving people in sexual activity without their voluntary and informed consent and may also include sexual activity where one party is in a position of trust, power or authority. Sexual abuse includes:

* Vaginal or anal rape, or attempted rape
* Inappropriate looking or touching
* Denial of a sexual life
* Incest
* Indecent assault
* Gross indecency
* Sexual harassment
* Coercion or undue influence to engage in sexual activity.
* Sexual teasing or innuendo
* Sexual photography
* Exposure to sexually explicit materials or situations
* Forced marriage
* Sexual activity with a person who lacks the mental capacity to consent.
* Inappropriate touch anywhere
* Non- consensual masturbation of either or both persons
* Non- consensual sexual penetration or attempted penetration of the vagina, anus or mouth
* Inappropriate looking, sexual teasing or innuendo or sexual harassment
* Sexual photography or forced use of pornography or witnessing of sexual act
* Indecent exposure

Professional relationships

All sexual activity involving staff with individuals for whom they care or know to be vulnerable is contrary to professional standards. It is abusive and will result in disciplinary proceedings.

Possible indicators

Factors that may indicate sexual abuse include:

* Full or partial disclosure or hints of sexual abuse.
* Bruising, bleeding or pain in genital, vaginal or anal area.
* Bruising, particularly to the thighs, buttocks and upper arms and marks on the neck
* Unexplained difficulty in sitting and walking.
* Love bites.
* Infections, unexplained genital discharge, or sexually transmitted diseases
* Urinary tract infection or vaginal infection.
* Pregnancy in a person who is unable to consent to sexual relations.
* Persistent unexplained removal of urinary catheters.
* Wetting or soiling when no history of incontinence.
* Torn, stained or bloody underclothing or bedding.
* Overt sexual behaviour or language.
* Unexplained behaviour or mood change.
* Obsession with washing.
* Reluctance to be alone with an individual known to them.
* Fear of caregiver offering help with personal care.
* Signs of depression or stress.

<https://www.scie.org.uk/safeguarding/adults/introduction/types-and-indicators-of-abuse#domestic>