FINANCIAL ABUSE

1 BACKGROUND

Financial abuse is the term used to describe harming someone by taking or 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 centre, hospital or in a public place.

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, exploitation, undue pressure in connection with wills, property, inheritance or financial transactions, the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits, the misuse of an enduring power of attorney or a lasting power of attorney, or Appointeeship or Deputyship.

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.

4 WHAT TO DO

Some of the ideas for this are:

Mentoring, life skills, anger management, cognitive behavioural work, constrictive pursuits, education and skills, careers advice and assistance, family support, health support, housing support, substance misuse support.

5 QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Look 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