

Self-Neglect



The 2014 Care Act, sets out our responsibility for protecting adults with care and support needs from abuse or neglect. makes direct reference to Self-Neglect.

Signs and symptoms of self-neglect include but are not limited to:

- **Dehydration, malnutrition, untreated or improperly attended medical conditions, and poor personal hygiene**
- **Hazardous or unsafe living conditions/arrangements (e.g., improper wiring, no indoor plumbing, no heat, no running water)**
- **Unsanitary or unclean living quarters (e.g., animal/insect infestation, no functioning toilet, fecal/urine smell)**
- **Inappropriate and/or inadequate clothing, lack of the necessary medical aids (e.g., eye-glasses, hearing aids, dentures)**
- **Grossly inadequate housing or homelessness.**

An adult may be at risk of serious harm where they are;

- **Either unable, or unwilling to provide adequate care for themselves**
- **Not engaging with a network of support**
- **Unable to or unwilling to obtain necessary care to meet their needs**
- **Unable to make reasonable, informed or mentally capacitated decisions due to mental disorder (including hoarding behaviours), illness or acquired brain injury**
- **Unable to protect themselves adequately against potential exploitation or abuse**
- **Refusing essential support without which their health and safety needs cannot be met and the individual lacks insight to recognise this.**

**If you identify these behaviours please refer to the “*Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Policy and Procedures to support people Who Self-Neglect*” for information and advice on what to do –
Doing nothing is not an option!**