



**Safeguarding
is everybody's
business**



Self-Neglect Factsheet

The Basics

- A wide range of behaviour neglecting to care for one's personal hygiene, health or surroundings and includes behaviour such as hoarding.
- This type of neglect can be either intentional or non-intentional and can result from any mental or physical illness that has an effect on your physical abilities, energy levels, attention or organisation skills or motivation.

Signs and Symptoms

- A refusal or inability to cater for basic needs, e.g. personal hygiene or appropriate clothing.
- Neglecting to seek assistance for medical issues.
- Not attending to living conditions – letting rubbish accumulate in the garden, or dirt to accumulate in the house.
- Hoarding items or animals.
- Lack of essential food, clothing or shelter
- Living in squalid or unsanitary conditions
- Unkempt appearance

Reporting Concerns

- If you think someone is in immediate danger from Self Neglect please call the Police on **999** or for non-emergency **101**.
- If you're worried about a situation or someone you know who might be suffering Self-neglect in the East Riding of Yorkshire please call:
East Riding of Yorkshire Safeguarding Adults Team on **01482 396940** (Mon-Thurs 9am – 5pm, Fri 9 am-4.30pm) or **(01377) 241273** (out of hours)
or email safeguardingadultsteam@eastriding.gov.uk

Legislation

- The Care Act 2014 recognises self-neglect as a category of abuse. This means that people who self-neglect may now be supported by safeguarding adult approaches, including Making Safeguarding Personal as well as receiving more support from practitioners who have legal powers, such as:- Fire & Rescue, Environmental Health, Housing, Mental Health Services, Local Authority.
- The ERSAB VARM (Vulnerable Adults Risk Management) process provides a framework for professionals to facilitate effective multi-agency working with vulnerable adults/adults at risk (adults with care and support needs, whether these are being met or not) 18 or over who are deemed to have mental capacity and who are at risk of serious harm or death through self-neglect, refusal of services and/or high levels of risk taking activity.

For further details about the work of the East Riding Safeguarding Adults Board visit www.ersab.org.