



Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults

The Partnership Approach



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Introductions

Why we work in partnership

Mutual benefits of working together:

- protecting vulnerable people
- protecting local businesses
- community safety
- Legal and social responsibility
- Financial and reputational reasons



Aims of today's session

- To be able to identify signs of vulnerability and know what actions you could take to help!



What can make people vulnerable?

- Age (children, teenagers, elderly)
- Physical disabilities / sensory impairment
- Mental Health needs
- Capacity / Learning difficulties
- Communication difficulties
- Money issues
- Social problems
- Relationships
- Addictions
- Problem gambling

– *Can you think of any others?*

Spotting the signs: Indicators of vulnerability

Scenario 1

- Albert is a 68 year old man who is disabled and uses a walking stick
 - He lives with his son and family, just around the corner from the betting shop.
 - Every Thursday after drawing his pension he comes into the shop, to play on the FOBT and have a 'flutter' on the horses
 - He likes chatting to the shop staff, who have noticed on a couple of occasions he has bruising on his wrists and face.
 - Every week, before he leaves, he counts up his money before going home
 - One day after losing £20 on the horses he becomes hysterical. He pleads with the shop staff, saying he daren't go home without the money as his son will be angry. He asks the shop assistant for a loan.
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Scenario 2

- Sarah is a 45 year old professional
 - She works at a Solicitor's office near to your city centre premises
 - She calls into the shop most days to place a bet at lunchtime and again after work when she plays on the FOBTs. Often she smells of alcohol even during the work day
 - She can become quite aggressive when she loses money but always keeps betting until she wins, or the shop closes
 - She has now started nipping in during the morning when she does this she seems agitated, avoids eye contact with staff and leaves at high speed in her car
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Scenario 3

- Jay is 15 years old
 - He is known to the police and regularly truants from school to hang around with a group of 'undesirables' in the area
 - He hangs around the shopping precinct near your premises a lot
 - He is aggressive, rowdy and threatening to staff.
 - He always looks unkempt and staff have seen him in winter, without a coat or jumper, scanning the pavement and bins looking for cigarette ends or food
 - One day he is standing outside the shop talking to an older male. You notice Jay is wearing brand new designer jeans and a leather jacket.
 - You see the older male point towards a car and he pushes Jay into the shop with his hand on the boy's shoulder. Jay is much quieter than usual.
 - When staff ask Jay if he has any ID, the older male pushes Jay to one side and answers for him, saying 'he's with me I've come to collect'.
 - Jay looks frightened as they leave the shop and you notice that a car picks them up outside, there are 2 other older men in the car.
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Scenario 4

- Zoe always insists on organising the office sweepstake for the Grand National and the World Cup
 - Now she's set up an office lottery syndicate
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Scenario 5

- Dorothy is a 75 year old woman who visits the betting shop every morning after she has collected her newspaper and milk from the convenience store next door
 - She is always sociable and loves chatting to the staff and having a cup of tea at the shop
 - She lives alone and has no family
 - She spends a couple of pounds every now and then on the FOBTs
 - Lately staff have noticed that she has become forgetful and confused and she looks frail
 - Last week she was coughing a lot and almost fell over, staff had to help her home
 - This week, you notice that she has not been in for a couple of days
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Scenario 6

- Trevor bets most days at the bookies and tells you he has recently started playing online poker at night
- He tells you that he and his wife frequently argue about money and that sometimes it 'gets out of hand'



Scenario 7

- Terry is one of your regular customers. He tells you that he has been approached by a young girl who offered him sex if he would give her money or cigarettes
 - You have noticed that a group of 3 young females have started hanging around the shop after school each day. They arrive around 3.45pm and are wearing school uniform
 - You check back on CCTV over the past week and see that the girls have been approaching a number of male customers, one of whom is recorded going away from the premises towards a car with a girl
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Scenario 8

- Declan is a 20 year old student who recently started work at the betting shop
 - After a few weeks, he begins arriving late to work in the morning and then starts taking odd days off sick
 - One day he tells a colleague that he loves playing online poker after his flatmate has gone to bed, but he can't get up in the morning.
 - He tells you that he's started on anti depressants and other medication to help him with his anxiety but he doesn't think its working
 - You've noticed the smell of cannabis on his clothes
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Scenario 9

- Debbie plays bingo every Friday night with 'the girls'
- Occasionally, she can't afford to go, so she borrows the money from her friend so as not to miss out



Scenario 10

- Darren is a 54 year old customer who has self excluded
 - He has not been to the shop for 2 weeks
 - One morning he enters the shop and demands to place a bet
 - He is aggressive and shouting
 - When he is refused, he storms out of the shop threatening to destroy the building and everyone in it, by setting the place on fire
 - Darren has attempted this at another premises, in the past
 - There are several customers in the shop, one of whom has left his toddler in a pushchair outside. The toddler is not being supervised by anyone.
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Scenario 11

- Chen is an International student at Sheffield University
- He enjoys playing at the casino at the weekend
- He has started skipping lectures on Fridays and Mondays



Scenario 12

- Ash calls in the betting shop most days
 - He uses several bank cards to place bets and occasionally disappears and comes back with more cash to play
 - You overhear him on the phone telling his ex-wife he hasn't got enough money for child maintenance this month, but he has told you he's had a good win this week on the horses
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What we can do!

- Interventions
- Reporting
- Recording: IRF (Incident Report Forms)
- Report to your Line Manager
- **Phone 999 if risk is imminent / assault happened or likely to**
- **Record and report concerns** to the police **101** and / or safeguarding - if a child ring 0114 2734855 or contact children's social care via the website <https://www.sheffield.gov.uk/caresupport/childfam/childrens-social-care/social-work.html>).
- **Safeguarding Adults Advice Line** (9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday) 0114 2736870. If your report is about a vulnerable adult ring 0114 2734908.
- **Signpost if safe to do so** – offer the domestic abuse helpline number 0808 808 2241 via a Sheffield Domestic Abuse Partnership contact card
- **Crimestoppers** – 0800 555 111 or online crimestoppers-uk.org and fill in the form
- **Protecting yourself:**
 - know your safeguarding policy
 - working to the code of conduct



