

## Wigan Borough stands together against abuse

A powerful campaign has been launched in Wigan Borough urging people to report signs of abuse and neglect.

Residents are being encouraged to spot signs and symptoms of the different types of abuse to help people to recognise when they, or someone they know, might need help and support.

Wigan Safeguarding Children Board and Wigan Safeguarding Adult Board have joined together for the first time for the 'Together Against Abuse' initiative with support from partners including Wigan Council, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Local Health Trusts and Wigan Borough Clinical Commissioning Group.

Because of the complex nature of the subject, often abuse and neglect go unnoticed and undetected with people frequently reluctant or unable to report.

This can mean that problems faced by those who have been subjected to abuse or neglect can have long lasting negative impacts on their lives.

Abuse can take many forms including physical, psychological, domestic or financial abuse, sexual exploitation, neglect including self-neglect and discrimination amongst others.

As part of The Deal, residents are being urged to be the 'eyes and ears' in their local community and are encouraged to report any concerns they have about children or adults.

Safeguarding Board partners will communicate the message to communities by touring the borough on Wigan Council's 'Deal Bus' throughout the summer.

The Independent Chair of both Safeguarding Boards, Dr Paul Kingston, highlighted the timeliness of the campaign saying:

"At a time when there are revelations about abuse and neglect at the forefront of society; this campaign is extremely relevant. Safeguarding is not solely the domain of professionals, it is everyone's business. This campaign will inform the public what they can do to stay vigilant, and to report any concerns that they have so that individuals and families living in the borough feel safe and are safe."

People are being urged not to wait but to report a safeguarding concern by contacting:

Wigan Council initial assessment teams:

Children and young people: 01942 828300

Adults: 01942 828777

Greater Manchester Police: 0161 872 5050 or 999 in an emergency

National Domestic Abuse free 24 hour helpline: 0808 2000 247

More information: [www.wigan.gov.uk/togetheragainstabuse](http://www.wigan.gov.uk/togetheragainstabuse)

Ends



For more information contact the Safeguarding Board on 01942 486025 or email [wsab@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:wsab@wigan.gov.uk)