**Appendix 1**

**Definitions of Abuse**

**Physical abuse**

Physical abuse may involve hitting, slapping, kicking, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, misuse of medication, restraint or inappropriate sanctions, or otherwise causing physical harm to another person. Physical harm may also be caused when a carer fabricates the symptoms of, or deliberately induces illness in a vulnerable person. Physical abuse may be suspected as a result of physical injuries which have no satisfactory explanation or where there is a definite knowledge, or reasonable suspicion that the injury was inflicted with intent, or through lack of care, by a person having custody, charge or care of that person.

**Psychological/Emotional Abuse**

Psychological or emotional abuse is the persistent emotional maltreatment of another person such as to cause severe and persistent adverse effects on that person’s emotional development or well-being. It may involve conveying to the vulnerable person that they are worthless or unloved, inadequate, or valued only insofar as they meet the needs of another person. It may amount to humiliation, harassment, bullying, shouting, swearing, blaming, controlling, coercion, verbal abuse, enforced isolation, deprivation of contact, threats of harm or abandonment, fears or bribes to negate a vulnerable person’s choices, independent wishes and self-esteem, withdrawal from services or supportive networks or over-dependence.

In the case of children, it may feature age or developmentally inappropriate expectations being imposed on children. These may include interactions that are beyond the child’s developmental capability, as well as overprotection and limitation of exploration and learning, or preventing the child participating in normal social interaction. It may involve seeing or hearing the ill-treatment of another. It may involve serious bullying causing the abused individual to frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption. Some level of emotional abuse is involved in all types of maltreatment of a vulnerable person, though it may occur alone.

**Sexual Abuse**

Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing an adult at risk to take part in sexual activities, including prostitution, whether or not that person is aware of what is happening, could not consent or was pressured into consenting. The activities may involve physical contact e.g. rape, buggery, oral sex or masturbation, or non-contact activities, such as indecent exposure, involving the person in looking at, or in the production of, pornographic material or watching sexual activities, unwanted teasing or innuendo, or encouraging people to behave in sexually inappropriate ways.

**Neglect**

Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a person’s basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of that person’s health or development. It may include withholding care and treatment and/or failing to meet identified needs essential to everyday life. This may include ignoring medical or physical care needs, failure to provide access to appropriate health, social care or educational services, the withholding of the necessities of life, such as medication, adequate nutrition and heating. Neglect can be both physical and emotional. Neglect of a duty of care may also give rise to safeguarding issues.

**Financial or material abuse**

Financial or material abuse includes situations whereby an individual’s funds or resources are inappropriately used by a third person. It includes withholding money or property, theft, fraud, exploitation, pressure in connection with wills or the entry of the adult at risk into financial contracts or transactions that they do not understand, to their disadvantage, or the misuse or misappropriation of property, possessions or benefits.

**Discriminatory abuse**

Discriminatory abuse may be used to describe serious, repeated or pervasive discrimination, which leads to harm or exclusion from mainstream opportunities, provision of poor standards of health care, and/or which represents a failure to protect or provide redress through the criminal or civil justice system. It is often targeted at a perceived vulnerability or is the basis of prejudice on the basis of an individual’s characteristics.