



Barriers to sharing allegations and suspicions

Barriers for adults and children and young people

- fear of retribution: being left alone or sent into 'care', being shunned by family
- hopelessness about solutions
- fear of the impact on others
- communication difficulties
- inappropriate medication
- poor awareness of rights
- acceptance
- low self-esteem and guilt
- love or care for abuser.

Barriers for staff or volunteers

- fear of being labelled as a troublemaker
- not knowledgeable about what abuse is
- think service user is a troublemaker / prejudice towards the service user
- cultural or institutional issues – may have been drawn into the behaviour, bullying culture
- stigma of being a whistle blower – ostracised, victimised
- not wanting to tell on colleagues and protecting friends
- burnout / stress
- fear of loss of promotion, job and 'references'
- lack of understanding organisational policy and procedures
- attitude / indifference of not being 'bothered'
- past experience of reporting
- denial or disbelief
- fear of hierarchy – may be senior staff are responsible.

Barriers for family and friends

- denial
- not wanting outside interference
- shame / stigma
- culture
- financial loss and consequences
- feeling powerless and fear of repercussions
- fear of losing or taking responsibility
- guilt at not having stopped it
- collusion
- fear of effect on others
- not wanting the attention
- no evidence
- not wanting family broken up
- previous abuse or other things to hide