

Fact Sheet on:



Adult Support and Protection Act

How to get in touch:

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Please note:

If you require legal representation, we will be happy to help you find a Solicitor.



(pronounced Kier-tis) is a Gaelic word for equality, fairness and justice.

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What is Adult Support and Protection?

If you have any immediate concerns about yourself or someone else in East Dunbartonshire then you can contact the Adult Intake Service at Social Work on **0141 355 2200**.

You can also speak to a health professional or contact any police office. They will take your concerns seriously.

[The Adult Support and Protection \(Scotland\) Act 2007](#) provides a range of measures which councils and other public bodies can use to support and protect adults who are unable to safeguard themselves, their property and their rights.

It places a duty on councils to make inquiries where it believes that someone is an adult at risk. Other public bodies, like the police and Health Boards, have a duty to tell the council if they are concerned about an adult.

The Act requires public bodies to work together to take steps to decide and circumstances with an adult's right to live as independently as possible.

For further information about the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 please visit

What does the Act do?

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007:

- provides greater protection to **adults at risk of harm** through powers to investigate and take action to support and protect an adult in situations where concern exists;
- places a duty on specified organisations to co-operate in investigating suspected or actual harm;
- places a duty on Councils to make inquiries and investigations to find out whether or not further action is required to stop or prevent harm occurring;
- introduces a range of protection orders including assessment orders, removal orders and banning orders; and
- provides for the establishment of local multi-agency Adult Protection Committees across Scotland

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Who is at risk of Harm?

Adults at risk are adults, aged 16 years of age and over, who:

- are unable to safeguard their own well-being, property, rights or other interests,
- are at risk of harm, and
- because they are affected by disability, mental disorder, illness or physical or mental infirmity, are more vulnerable to being harmed than adults who are not so affected.

Within the purposes of the Act an adult is deemed at risk of harm if:

- another person's conduct is causing (or is likely to cause) the adult to be harmed, or
- the adult is engaging (or is likely to engage) in conduct which causes (or is likely to cause) self-harm.

What is harm?

Harm includes all harmful conduct and, in particular, includes:

- conduct which causes physical harm;
- conduct which causes psychological harm (e.g. by causing fear, alarm or distress)
- unlawful conduct which appropriates or adversely affects property, rights or interests (e.g. theft, fraud, embezzlement or extortion)
- conduct which causes self-harm

What can Ceartas do to help?

If you are, or someone you know is, currently being supported under the Act, an independent advocacy worker can work alongside you to ensure that you are involved in the process; you are aware of your rights and that you are kept fully informed of any decisions made.

- Your advocacy worker is not responsible for making any decisions or taking action under the Act. They are not there to tell you what to do.
- Your advocacy worker will listen to your point of view and help you put this forward to others. They can do this by preparing for and attending meetings with you, and in some instances speaking on your behalf when you might not feel able to.
- Your advocacy worker is independent and is not employed by the Social Work Department, Health, Police or any other service.
- Advocacy Workers in East Dunbartonshire are employed by a registered charity called Ceartas. Your advocacy worker is not the same as a lawyer or solicitor and cannot give you any legal advice. If you need legal assistance through the process your advocacy worker can assist you to access this.
- It will not cost you anything to have an advocacy worker.

You can contact us yourself for information and assistance or someone who works with you, such as your social worker, nurse or support worker might contact us on your behalf. You will always have a choice whether or not you want to work with an advocacy worker.