

Self-Neglect

The 2014 Care Act, sets out our responsibility for protecting adults with care and support needs from abuse or neglect, makes direct reference

Signs and symptoms of self-neglect include but are not limited to:

- Dehydration, malnutrition, untreated or improperly attended medical conditions, and poor personal hygiene
- Hazardous or unsafe living conditions/arrangements (e.g., improper wiring, no indoor plumbing, no heat, no running water)
- Unsanitary or unclean living quarters (e.g., animal/insect infestation, no functioning toilet, fecal/urine smell)
- Inappropriate and/or inadequate clothing, lack of the necessary medical aids (e.g., eyeglasses, hearing aids, dentures)
- Grossly inadequate housing or homelessness.

An adult may be at risk of serious harm where they are;

- **Either unable, or unwilling to provide adequate care for themselves**
- **Not engaging with a network of support**
- **Unable to or unwilling to obtain necessary care to meet their needs**
- **Unable to make reasonable, informed or mentally capacitated decisions due to mental disorder (including hoarding behaviours), illness or acquired brain injury**
- **Unable to protect themselves adequately against potential exploitation or abuse**
- **Refusing essential support without which their health and safety needs cannot be met and the individual lacks insight to recognise this.**

If you identify these behaviours please refer to the “*Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Policy and Procedures to support people Who Self-Neglect*” for information and advice on what to do – Doing nothing is not an option!