

**Financial abuse: 105 cases investigated in Cumbria last year**

Cumbria Adults Safeguarding Board is campaigning to raise awareness of adults in need of care and support who are experiencing or are at risk of abuse and neglect in Cumbria.

## Financial abuse and fraud

### What is financial abuse and fraud?

Financial abuse and fraud is the illegal or improper use of someone's money or property without their consent or where consent is obtained by fraud. It is stealing and cheating a person out of their money or property.

### Andrew's story

Andrew has a learning disability, and a care worker, Jack, who supports him with daily tasks. Jack does the shopping and often uses Andrew's bank card to get cash out when he shops for him. Andrew started worrying when Jack never gave him a receipt for his shopping, or told him how much he had spent. Jack then began keeping his bank card.

One day he asked Jack if he could have his bank card back. Jack started shouting and saying that he was the carer, that he was only trying to help Andrew, and that he shouldn't be interfering and making things difficult for him. Andrew became quite scared and didn't mention it again.

One day £50 went missing from Andrew's flat. Jack was the only person who'd been to the flat in a couple of days. Andrew again asked if he could have the bank card back but this time Jack got really nasty with him, shouting and screaming, being awkward and ignoring him.

Andrew mentioned his worries about Jack to his brother, who rang adult social care. They took what he said very seriously and Jack stopped visiting Andrew. A social worker visited Andrew along with his brother to find out more about what had been happening. Andrew and his brother attended safeguarding meetings arranged by the social worker. Andrew has a new support worker and is now very happy with the help that he gets.

### How to report a concern

If someone is at-risk, or you suspect someone is at risk, you should tell someone as soon as possible. In the first instance, you can contact your local adult social care office:

<b>South Lakeland</b>	<b>01539 713378</b>
<b>Furness</b>	<b>01229 407446</b>
<b>Eden</b>	<b>01768 812243</b>
<b>Allerdale</b>	<b>01900 706301</b>
<b>Copeland</b>	<b>01946 506352</b>
<b>Carlisle</b>	<b>01228 221590</b>

In an emergency, people can contact the adult social care duty team (out of hours) on **01228 526690**, or call **999** for the police.

For more information visit [www.cumbriamakeitstop.org.uk](http://www.cumbriamakeitstop.org.uk)

