

Reference to Working Together to Safeguard Children, DCFS, March 2010,
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Section 6.43 – 6.48, Pg 111/112

Abuse of Disabled Children

The reasons why disabled children are more vulnerable to abuse are summarised below:

- *Many disabled children are at an increased likelihood of being socially isolated with fewer outside contacts than non-disabled children.*
- *Their dependency on parents and carers for practical assistance in daily living including intimate personal care increases their risk of exposure to abusive behaviour.*
- *They have an impaired capacity to resist or avoid abuse.*
- *They may have speech, language and communication needs which may make it difficult to tell others what is happening.*
- *They often do not have access to someone they can trust to disclose that they have been abused.*
- *They are especially vulnerable to bullying and intimidation.*
- *Looked after disabled children are not only vulnerable to the same factors that exist for all children living away from home but are particularly susceptible to possible abuse because of their additional dependency on residential and hospital staff for day to day physical needs.*