

Appendix 1

Vulnerable Person

This statement sets out the Council's understanding of vulnerable or potentially vulnerable persons. Mid Devon District Council (MDDC) will follow all legal and policy obligations in the delivery of services to MDDC residents aligning with our behaviours framework. MDDC aims to provide reasonable adjustment to service provision when a vulnerability is identified. Policies involving the handling of vulnerable persons include, but are not limited to Corporate Recovery, Mid Devon Housing Vulnerability, Safeguarding, and Customer Care Charter.

Definition

A vulnerable person is a person who, by characteristics and/or circumstances, is unable to act or interact appropriately with Council service, or for the same reason is unreasonably affected by them. The Council recognises that vulnerability can come in many forms and it can also be multi layered. Vulnerability can be temporary, permanent or come in a series of episodes and anyone at any time could potentially be deemed vulnerable. It is important to note that residents may not self-identify as being vulnerable. The characteristics or circumstances that **may** lead to identifying a person as vulnerable are as follows:

- Carers
- Cognitive Impairment
- Debt Management Agency involvement and overall debts need to be managed
- Disability
- Financial Impoverishment
- Learning Difficulty (including literacy difficulties)
- Language Difficulty
- Late Term Pregnancy
- Medication
- Mental Health (including personality disorders)
- Physical Health (including fragility due to advance years)
- Possession Proceedings
- Probation Service Involvement
- Recent Bereavement
- SMI (Severely mentally Impaired)
- Substance Abuse
- Social Services Involvement
- Terminal Illness
- Victim of Abuse/Domestic Violence
- Victim of War

- Care Leaver - defined as a person aged 25 or under, who has been looked after by a local authority for at least 13 weeks since the age of 14; and who was looked after by the local authority at school-leaving age or after that date.