

## Elder Abuse Response Service Fact Sheet

### What our data tells us:

- Between April 2020 and March 2021, the Elder Abuse Response Service supported 193 people.
- Of those, the top three types of abuse reported was self-neglect (40%), financial abuse (21%) and verbal abuse (12%).
- In the last 5 years, we've seen a 12% increase in people being supported, and the following changes in types of abuse being reported: a 15% increase in self-neglect, a 12% decrease in financial abuse, and a 6% decrease in psychological abuse.

### About our Elder Abuse Response Service:

Through FSWE's Elder Abuse Response Service, we help older adults deal with neglect, bullying and abuse. Elder Abuse can include financial or property misuse, physical or sexual abuse, mental or emotional abuse, and caregiver neglect or self-neglect.

When someone reaches out to us, we will provide a quick and flexible response for help, provide professional advocacy and support, and helps older adults build resilience and live safely. Our team will:

- Match older adults with a social worker; listen and learn about immediate concerns of neglect, bullying or abuse; and identifying key factors influencing the situation.
- Provide options, guidance and support to handle concerns of abuse, neglect or bullying; stop any abuse from taking place; and intervene on behalf of the older adult, if needed.
- Teach how to exercise rights and freedoms to maintain independence, as well as how to recognize arising issues in the future; plan how to deal with abuse, neglect or bullying; and connect the older adult to available services and resources, as needed.

### What does abuse look like?\*

Examples of abusive behaviour toward a senior can include a person:

- being controlling (isolating them from friends and family)
- blaming them for the abuse
- having a strong sense of entitlement to their property or belongings
- treating them like a child
- leaving them alone for long periods of time if they're dependent

### What are warning signs of abuse?\*

Some warning signs of a senior being abused can include:

- changes in mood
- changes in behaviour
- physical harm (unexplained injuries)
- neglect (lack of hygiene, food, clothing)
- failure to meet financial obligations or unusual bank withdrawals
- changes in living arrangements (people moving in or being forced out)

Source: [Province of Ontario](#)