

# 100,000 abused by their carers

**Rosemary Bennett**  
Social Affairs Correspondent

More than 100,000 elderly or vulnerable people were abused in care or in their own home last year, according to the latest record of complaints.

It shows that there were 32,000 allegations of physical assault, 36,000 cases of neglect and 22,000 cases in which elderly or vulnerable people were "cheated of money".

The record of investigations was collected from all councils in England for the first annual Safeguarding Adults Return, produced by the government's health and social care information centre (HSCIC). It re-

ported that most incidents – 42 per cent – took place in the person's home and more than a third happened in care homes.

Half of the perpetrators were known to the victim but were not formal carers, so could include family members. A third were carers employed to look after the elderly person. The remaining 15 per cent were unknown to the victim.

"The majority of institutional abuse and neglect was alleged to be caused by social care and support workers," the new-style report said.

"Most physical or financial abuse was said to have been carried out by someone known to the victim."

All of the cases resulted in council investigations. Some 100 led to 'serious case reviews' because the level of harm suffered by the victim endangered their life or caused their death.

Kingsley Manning, chairman of the HSCIC, said: "This report sheds light on the extent and type of abuse reported to have been perpetrated on some of our most vulnerable citizens.

"Councils and policymakers are encouraged to use it to protect adults who have care and support needs."

Janet Morrison, of the older people's charity Independent Age, said: "We need all the best available evidence to establish how severe and widespread abuse and neglect have become."

*Times / 6. 10. 14*