

Care assistants abused and tormented severely disabled patients they were meant to be looking after

**James Hinds, 59, and Susan Murphy, 43, abused a dozen in their care
Attacks included hitting, dragging and pushing the vulnerable patients
Hinds and Murphy guilty of a total of 25 counts of abuse and face jail**

by Martin Robinson, Daily Mail, UK, May 17, 2013 |

Two care assistants face jail after being found guilty of mistreating a dozen severely disabled patients in their care.

In a series of vicious attacks James Hinds, 59, and Susan Murphy, 43, slapped people around the head, physically dragged someone to the toilet, and even locked one woman in a cupboard, Sheffield Crown Court heard.

The pair worked at the Solar Centre at St Catherine's Hospital in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, where patients who were blind and physically disabled were abused and tormented.

Shameful: The attacks happened at the Solar Centre at St Catherine's hospital in Doncaster, which should have been a safe haven for users

All those involved are extremely vulnerable adults, with limited communication abilities and a range of physical disabilities including blindness.

Many of the attacks involved patients being slapped and hit around the head.

Hinds threw one man into a wheelchair, dragged another to the toilet and hit another with a microphone.

Murphy locked one woman in a cupboard, the court heard.

Prosecutor Sarah Wright told the court at the beginning of the trial: 'James Hinds also smacked Michael Kime around the face and head after Michael Kime had hit out at him.

'He pulled him up by his hair and dragged him across the floor.

Miss Wright told the jury that Hinds would regularly grab the cheeks of Robert Kirsopp and slap him.

Mr Kirsopp, who is in his 40s, has Down's syndrome, autism and dementia.

All the incidents happened in a period between January 2005 and March 2007.

Hinds and Murphy created an atmosphere at the centre which was intimidatory.

Hinds in particular was a 'very dominant character who came across as a bully' and who talked about 'sorting them out' in relation to the patients.

[LINK to full story](#)