

# Domestic Abuse & Adult Safeguarding

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- ▶ Definitions
- ▶ Commonalities Overlaps and Differences
- ▶ Making it work

# What is Domestic Abuse

- ▶ The cross-government definition of domestic violence and abuse is:
- ▶ *any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to:*

# What is Domestic Abuse

- ▶ psychological
- ▶ physical
- ▶ sexual
- ▶ financial
- ▶ emotional

*From: Domestic violence and abuse; Home Office  
updated 2016*

# What is Domestic Abuse

- ▶ **Controlling behaviour**
- ▶ Controlling behaviour is a range of acts designed to make a person subordinate and/or dependent by isolating them from sources of support, exploiting their resources and capacities for personal gain, depriving them of the means needed for independence, resistance and escape and regulating their everyday behaviour.

# What is Domestic Abuse

- ▶ **Coercive behaviour**
- ▶ Coercive behaviour is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats, humiliation and intimidation or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten their victim.
- ▶ S76 Serious Crime Act 2015 - up to 5 years imprisonment
- ▶ But... difficult to prove

# What is adult safeguarding?

- ▶ Safeguarding means protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.
- ▶ (Care Act statutory guidance ch14.7; *Dept. of Health* 2016)
- ▶ No definition of abuse

# Who should be safeguarded?

Safeguarding duties apply to an adult who:

- has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs)
- is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect
- as a result of those care and support needs is unable to protect themselves from either the risk of, or the experience of abuse or neglect



# Types of abuse (Care Act)

## ▶ PHYSICAL ABUSE

### . DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

- SEXUAL ABUSE
- PSYCHOLOGICAL ABUSE
- FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL ABUSE
- modern slavery
- discriminatory abuse
- organisational abuse
- neglect and acts of omission
- self-neglect.

# Care act guidance on domestic *violence*

- ▶ psychological
- ▶ physical
- ▶ sexual
- ▶ financial
- ▶ emotional abuse
- ▶ *so called 'honour' based violence*

# Governance

- ▶ Domestic Abuse Governance Boards
- ▶ Safeguarding Adults Boards
- ▶ Health & Well Being Boards
- ▶ Community Safety Partnerships
  - ▶ (local authority - District Council level in Cambs)
- ▶ Inter-board protocol (Peterborough)
- ▶ (excludes DA Board)

# Domestic abuse

- ▶ Home Office non-statutory guidance
- ▶ **NICE guidance & Quality Standards**
- ▶ Multi agency case planning via MARAC (non statutory)  
Police lead

# Domestic abuse

- ▶ Universal - anyone could be affected
- ▶ Safe enquiry - routine
- ▶ Response to crime - Criminal justice investigation
- ▶ Empowerment is a key issue
  - ▶ ensuring the person has control and dictates the pace

# Adult Safeguarding

- ▶ Department of Health  
Statutory guidance
- ▶ SCIE guidance
- ▶ ADASS /LGA guidance (DA &  
Safeguarding)

# Adult Safeguarding

- ▶ Targeted - Adults at Risk
- ▶ Response to allegations or concerns
- ▶ Some preventative work
- ▶ Multi agency case planning via S42 enquiries (statutory)  
Local authority lead - County Council in Cambs
- ▶ Possible police investigation

# Adult Safeguarding

- ▶ Making Safeguarding Personal
  - ▶ the adult is engaged with the process and sets their desired outcomes



# Likelihood of abuse

- ▶ disabled women at significant and higher risk than women in the general population
- ▶ disabled women in the UK may be assaulted or raped at a rate that is at least twice that of non-disabled women.
- ▶ Adult Safeguarding & domestic abuse ADASS 2015

# Likelihood of abuse

- ▶ Women with care & support needs are more likely to experience domestic abuse
- ▶ not yet clear if men with health and social care needs are more likely to be abused than men in the general population

# Consequences of abuse

- ▶ Female survivors of domestic violence experience higher levels of depression, anxiety, eating disorders, PTSD, self-harming and suicidal ideation than the general female population
- ▶ rates of lifetime experiences of domestic violence among psychiatric patients is higher than the general population.
- ▶ Promising practices AVA 2015

# Consequences of abuse

- ▶ People who experience DA more likely to develop care & support needs, but-
- ▶ **Low rates of detection (10-30%)** by mental health professionals and midwives; barriers identified include gaps in knowledge and lack of safe referral/care pathways
- ▶ People not getting the right support?
- ▶ MARAC information important to agencies

# Domestic abuse & Children's safeguarding

- ▶ Strong, evidence-based link between domestic abuse and child abuse.
- ▶ Exposure to domestic abuse is always abusive to children, impact may vary
- ▶ 62 % of children exposed to domestic abuse also directly harmed due to physical or emotional abuse or neglect.
- ▶ Always consider children safeguarding referral

# Summary

- ▶ Some clear overlaps between Safeguarding and Domestic abuse
- ▶ Care and support needs implicated in both the incidence and outcome of domestic abuse
- ▶ Different governance arrangements
- ▶ Processes not designed to fit
- ▶ 2 parallel systems addressing what is often the **same event**
- ▶ And MAPPA

# Making it work

- ▶ Develop staff understanding of both DA & S/G
- ▶ Safe enquiry becomes routine
  - ▶ Staff trained to recognise indicators and ask relevant questions in safe environment
- ▶ Policy links
- ▶ Links between S/G enquiries & MARAC (MASH?)
- ▶ Support for staff who may be affected
- ▶ Partnership working
- ▶ Info sharing agreements