



domestic abuse consultancy

sarah wigley associates

*Supporting the social care sector*

# Coercive Control

*Between 2012 and 2014 **92%** of domestic homicide reviews involved coercive control as a critical factor*

*(Monckton-Smith, Szymanska & Haile, 2017)*

# Safeguarding

**Protecting an adult's right to live in safety, free from abuse and neglect.**

It is about people and organisations working together to prevent and stop both the **risks** and experience of **abuse and neglect**, while at the same time making sure that the adult's wellbeing is promoted, including where appropriate, having regard to **their views, wishes, feelings and beliefs** in deciding on any action

# Types of Abuse

- Physical abuse
- Sexual abuse
- Psychological or emotional abuse
- Financial or material abuse
- Neglect or acts of omission
- Self-neglect
- Modern slavery
- Domestic violence or abuse
- Discriminatory abuse
- Organisational or institutional abuse

# Historical context of domestic abuse and adult safeguarding

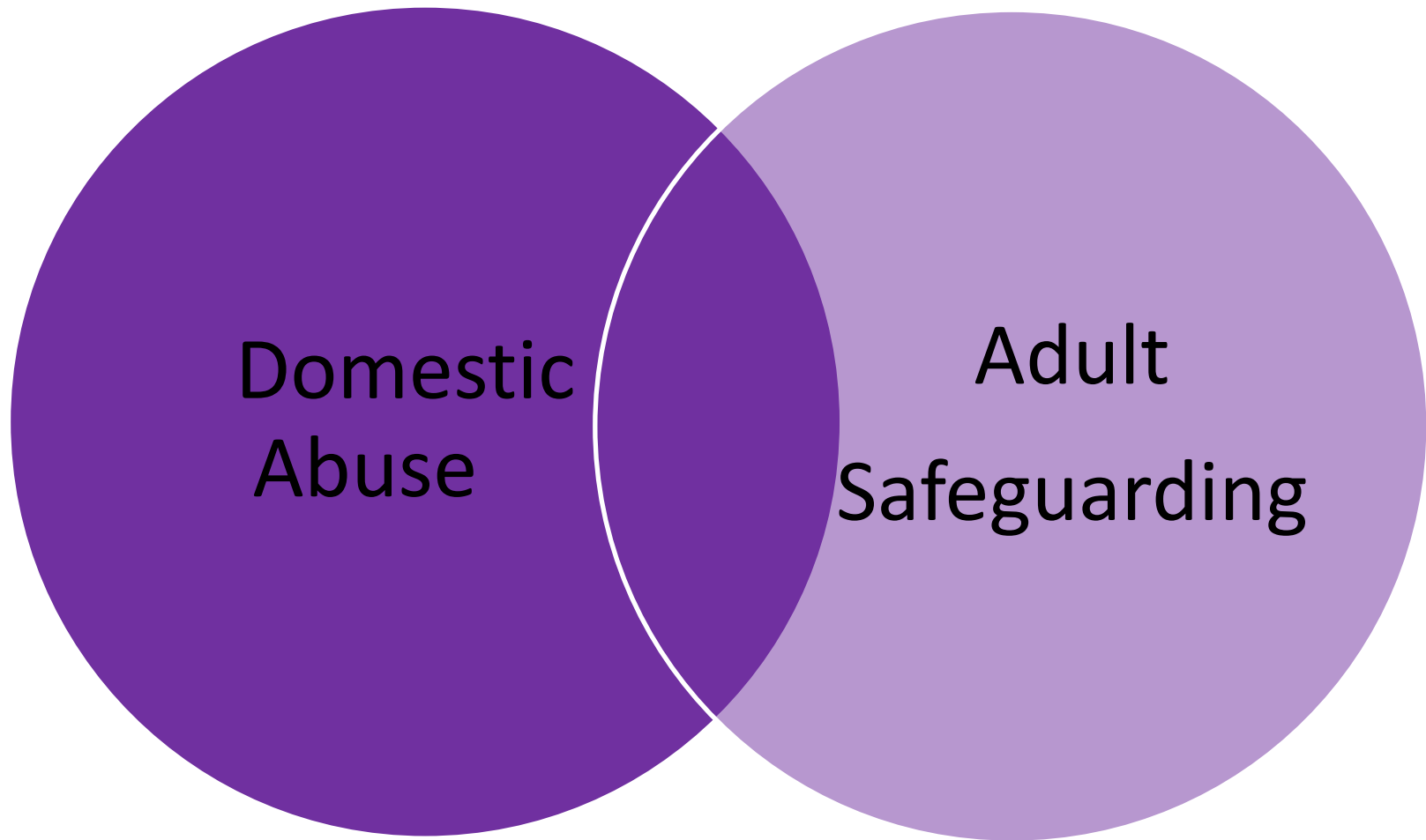


# **‘Care Act 2014’ Definition of an ‘Adult at Risk’**

- 1.** Has needs for care and support (whether or not the local authority is meeting any of those needs) and;
- 2.** Is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect; and;
- 3.** 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.

**‘Care Act 2014 Section 14.2’**

# Is it safeguarding or domestic abuse?



# Prevalence

## **We have no reliable statistics...however**

- Nationally domestic abuse represents approximately 30% of all violent crime.
- Average of 50 assaults before the victim reports to the police;
- 2 calls per minute to police
- Disabled people twice as likely to experience domestic abuse
- There are no official national statistics for older people
- 70% of high risk victims have children.
- 25% of DHRs involved family violence (Standing Together 2017)
- 92% of domestic homicide reviews involved coercive control as a critical factor (Monckton-Smith, Szymanska & Haile, 2017).
- **1 woman is murdered every 3 days**

# Dynamics – Coercion and Control



**DOMESTIC ABUSE CAN BE...**



**THAT'S  
WRONG**



**THAT'S  
WRONG**



**THAT'S  
WRONG**

# What do victims tell us about impacts of living with coercive control?

- **Fear**
- **Isolation**
- Anxiety
- Powerlessness
- Hopelessness
- Mental well-being
- Confusion
- Self doubt
- Suicidal thoughts
- **Humiliation/degradation**
- **Exhaustion**
- Loss of sense of self
- Shame
- Self blame
- Feeling Stupid/useless
- Sense that Perpetrator is all knowing

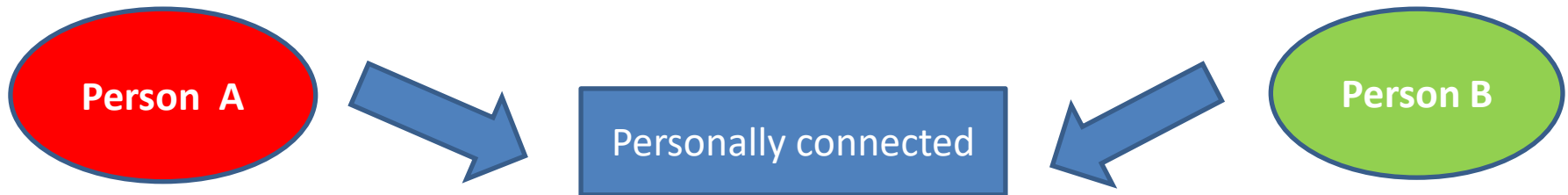
“In coercive control what men do to women is less important than what they prevent women from doing for themselves” *Evan Stark*

# Coercive Control and the Law

## **Section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015**

- a continuous course of conduct
- controlling or restricting a victim's free will
- Impact on a victim
- Often a “personal” element

Repeated or continuous coercive and controlling behaviour from Person A to Person B



Intimate relationship or

Live together - family or

Live together - ex intimate partner

Fearful x 2 of violence  
OR

Impact on Person B

Serious alarm or distress.  
Substantial adverse effect  
day to day activities

Reasonable person test  
'ought to have known'  
Max 5 years and/or fine  
Defence – best interests

# Evidence Gathering

- Record –when, what, impact on victim
- Notice your judgement
- Case notes – observations – consider DASH
- Patterns
- Isolation
- Monitor - robust
- Be pro-active
- Consider and record housing, drugs, alcohol, health, helplines
- Signpost and refer

## Losing out on both counts: disabled women and domestic violence

Ravi K. Thiara, Gill Hague & Audrey Mullender (2011):

	Disabled women	Nondisabled women	Disabled men	Nondisabled men
Experienced any domestic abuse in the last year	15.7%	7.1%	8.4%	4%
Experienced nonsexual partner abuse in the last year	11.3%	4.9%	4.5%	2.5%
Experienced nonsexual family abuse in the last year	4.6%	1.7%	4.3%	1.4%
Experienced sexual assault in the last year	2.6%	2.2%	0.9%	0.7%
Experienced stalking in the last year	7.6%	3.8%	5.3%	2.1%

# Coercion, control and physical violence

- *“You kind of don’t want to see them any more and they phone and you don’t phone them back. And you become more and more isolated and almost stuck in the situation”*
- *“I had an adapted ‘motability car’, he would take it and disappear for days on end with it, leaving me stranded in the house, unable to get the shopping. But you don’t say anything as a disabled woman, I felt so ashamed that this was happening, so I didn’t tell anyone.”*
- *“He’d insult me with all those names, you ‘spassy’ and so on, who’d want to marry you, just look at you . . . Shouting insults, you cripple, all that sort of thing. Once when he was furious he threw me on the floor with my dinner and said that’s where you eat your dinner, that’s where you belong. Of course I couldn’t get up again.”*

# Barriers to responding to this client group

Losing out on both counts: disabled women and domestic violence

Ravi K. Thiara, Gill Hague & Audrey Mullender (2011):

Disability Services	Domestic Abuse services
Inadequate focus given to domestic abuse	Inadequate focus given to disability
lack of resources	Resources stretched and unstable funding
lack of training & info about DV among staff common.	No mainstreaming of services
Lack of recognition re isolation as a risk factor	Lack of focus on reaching out to this client group

# Adult Family Violence – Non intimate

Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) Case Analysis: Standing Together 2017

- 8/32 domestic homicide reviews
- 7/8 caring element

Age of Victim	Number of victims	Context
30-39	1	2 x Father killed by Son 5 x Mother killed by Son 1 x Brother killed by Brother
40-49	2	
50-59	1	
60-69	1	
70-79	3	

- Risk assessment not based on AFV
- Professional Judgement is crucial

# Older People and Domestic Abuse

- “people still aren’t identifying that there are domestic abuse issues for older people, they are treating them rather as safeguarding”  
Safelives 2018
- a significant proportion of adults who need safeguarding support do so because they will also be experiencing domestic violence. Yet despite the overlap, the two have developed as separate fields”. Standing Together 2017

You think domestic violence doesn't  
happen to someone like me.  
I've covered it up for years.

A woman with blonde hair is seen from the side, looking into a large mirror. The mirror reflects a man in a dark suit and a woman in a white top. The woman in the reflection is holding a small object to her face. The scene is set in a room with a lamp and a vase of flowers on a table in the foreground.

If someone controls you psychologically,  
financially, emotionally, sexually or  
physically, this is **not** ok. Domestic abuse  
can happen to anyone, of any age.

If you or anyone you know is experiencing  
domestic abuse we can help.  
Call our confidential advice service,  
**Camden Safety Net** on 020 7974 2526.

**KNOW**  
it's not too late.

## Camden Safety Net raising awareness of domestic abuse amongst older adults

For more information visit [camden.gov.uk/know](http://camden.gov.uk/know)



[www.sarahwigleyassociates.co.uk](http://www.sarahwigleyassociates.co.uk)

In the old days he hit me  
but I didn't tell anyone. Now he  
controls me by taking away my medicine.  
He says I'm lucky to have him.



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She takes my money. She says she  
needs it. I'm afraid to say no  
but I don't know what to do.



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# CONTROL WHEEL

*for elder abuse*



Domestic Abuse Intervention Project, Duluth, Minnesota. Adapted for Sojour, 1992

# Barriers to service provision to older people

- The Domestic Homicide Review for Mrs Y, a 79-year-old woman killed by her husband found that she was not considered to be a potential victim of abuse, due in part to her age. Had the potential signs of domestic abuse been recognised and explored, then it may have been prevented. ([\*Sunderland City Council\*](#))
- Recognition by professionals and victims
- Perception of services
- Longevity - limitations
- Status of perp
- Adult children
- Attitudes and beliefs
- Privacy, embarrassment, shame

# Carer Abuse or Domestic Abuse? Consider...

## **Carer Abuse**

- Ability to care
- Isolation
- Level of stress/strain
- Motivation
- Mental well being of carer
- Support needed
- Carer assessment

## **Domestic Abuse**

- Explore both historical and current dynamics of the relationship including intent, empathy, independence of thought, assertion of will, fear
- Risk assessment – DASH
- Professional Judgement

# POWER & CONTROL WHEEL: PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR CAREGIVERS



Developed by:  
Wisconsin Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
307 S. Paterson St., Suite 2, Madison, WI 53703  
608-255-0539

Based on the model by the Domestic Violence  
Intervention Project, Duluth, MN.

Produced and distributed by:



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# Responding to disclosures

- Follow internal procedures
- DASH
- Consider immediate safety concerns
- Safeguarding duties
- Person centred approach
- It's an honour!
- Domestic Abuse service/MARAC

# Making Safeguarding Personal

**AT THE END OF THE  
PROCESS THE PERSON  
SHOULD BE ABLE TO  
SAY ....**

The  
people I  
wanted  
were  
involved

I had good  
quality care

I was  
helped to  
manage the  
risks

I felt safe  
and in  
control

People  
understood  
me,  
recognised  
what I could  
do

I had the  
information I  
needed in the  
way I needed  
it

People  
worked  
together  
reducing risk  
to my safety  
and well-  
being

# National Organisations

- 24 hour domestic abuse helpline **0808 2000 247**
- Karma Nirvana **0800 5999 247**
- Southall Black Sisters **020 8571 9595**
- Men's Advice Line **0808 801 0327**
- Galop – LGBT **0800 999 5428**
- National Stalking Helpline **0808 802 0300**



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