



# Models of Safeguarding: identifying the characteristics of safeguarding practice

Katie Graham, Caroline Norrie, Martin Stevens, Jo Moriarty, Jill Manthorpe and Shereen Hussein

[katie.graham@york.ac.uk](mailto:katie.graham@york.ac.uk)

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- The views expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NIHR School for Social Care Research or the Department of Health
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# Adult safeguarding in England

- Local Authorities (LAs) - lead agencies
- The Care Act 2014 creates a *duty* on LAs to:
  - ‘make enquiries, or ensure others do so, if it believes an adult is, or is at risk of, abuse or neglect.’ (Care Act Statutory Guidance, 2014 p192)
- However, still no prescription on **how** Local authorities (LAs) organise adult safeguarding



# Methods: narrative synthesis

- Phase 1
  - Research review
    - Qualitative data valued
    - Social work & social policy literature
    - ADASS / CQC
    - From 2000 (No Secrets)



# Models of Safeguarding: Key questions

- Literature review:
  - How have models of adult safeguarding been addressed in the research literature and other evidence?
  - What distinct organisational models of safeguarding can be identified?
  - What are the key variables between any different models?
  - What outcomes are linked to different models of safeguarding?



# Searching

Search terms	Refined search	Inclusion criteria	Exclusion criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Any article referring to adult safeguarding / adult protection / adult abuse / elder abuse</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Any article referring to safeguarding activity (as above) but regarding specific groups ('elder', learning disabilit*, physical disabilit*, mental health)</li> </ul>	<p>Where searches produced large numbers of results (for example 'elder abuse' a combined search was developed using these terms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Investigation</li> <li>•Outcomes</li> <li>•Referral</li> <li>•Intervention / response</li> <li>•Organi*ation</li> <li>•Decision</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Abuse</li> <li>•Adult services</li> <li>•Alert</li> <li>•Case conference</li> <li>•Decision Making</li> <li>•Intervention</li> <li>•Investigation</li> <li>•Local authorities</li> <li>•Multi-agency working</li> <li>•Organisation</li> <li>•Outcome</li> <li>•Protection plan</li> <li>•Referral</li> <li>•Response</li> <li>•Risk</li> <li>•Strategy</li> <li>•Structures</li> <li>•Thresholds</li> <li>•Training</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Literature pre 2000</li> <li>•Safeguarding Children</li> <li>•Self-neglect</li> </ul>

# Search results from electronic databases

Source	Potentially relevant	Included in initial analysis
<b>Electronic databases:</b>		
ASSIA	424	45
Psycinfo	382	46
Ingenta	67	10
Social Care Online	450	158
Social Services Abstracts	336	64
<b>Hand searched journals:</b>		
Journal of Adult Protection	56	31
Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect	21	9
<b>Reports:</b>		
Association of Directors of Adult Social Services	3	3
Care Quality Commission	3	3
Social Care Institute of Excellence	2	1
<b>Books</b>	3	3
<b>Snowballed references</b>	6	6
<b>Combined results</b>	1753	379
<b>After duplicates removed</b>		156

# Retrieval and relevance:

- Does the publication explore or describe the organisation of adult safeguarding?
- Does the source make reference to the process of safeguarding investigations / enquiries?
- Does the source make reference to:
  - the outcomes (results) of safeguarding investigationsOR
  - factors that may influence the outcomes of safeguarding investigations?





# Final inclusions and exclusions by relevance

References	Included in review		Excluded after reading	Not found
	5*	4*	1*-3*	
Journal articles	23	34	60	1
Books & Book Chapters	2	1	1	1
Reports	1	5	12	2
Policy & guidance material	0	7	6	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>4</b>

# Findings - Themes from literature

## Two primary studies were found:

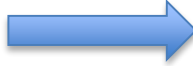
Cambridge et al. (2006) Exploring the incidence, nature and responses to adult safeguarding referrals.

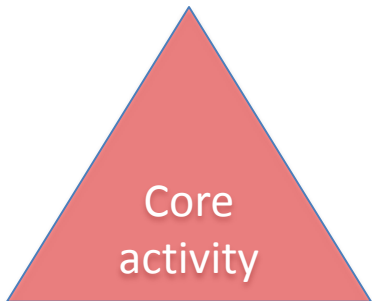
Penhale et al. (2007) Partnerships and Regulation.

- Degree of specialism
- Decision making & Thresholds
- Multi-agency working
- Outcomes & Survivor experience



# Degree of Specialism

- Continuum – embedded  specialist
- Adult Protection Coordinator: various incarnations
  - APC – Kent and Medway: high referrals / institutional / create consistency / improve MA working
  - APC – ADASS: specialist advice / chairing meetings / monitoring
  - US – specialist elder financial abuse teams



# Decision-making and thresholds: Factors

Referral rates noted to vary by  
specialism and seniority

## Self-determination

- Protection

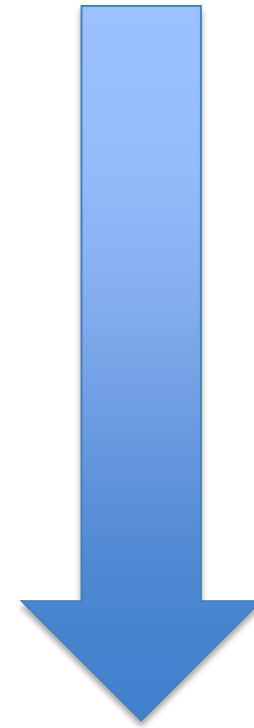
## Organisational impacts

- Shifting interpretations

## Likelihood of substantiation

- Poor practice?

## Ascribed vulnerability



# Multi-agency working

Poor  
communication

Ambiguity:  
Roles and  
Responsibilities


Housing

Specialist Roles

Positive  
outcomes

MASH

# Outcomes

- Traditionally judged by substantiation / monitoring / NFA  
 Safety in Care Act
- Timing – length of investigation
- Monitoring – different for different groups
- **APC role explored (Cambridge et al 2006):**
  - Association between APC role and likelihood of an investigation in institutional settings
  - Associated with a substantiated outcome
  - Associated with increased joint working
  - Associated with decreased likelihood of insufficient evidence and NFA outcomes
  - Associated with increased monitoring and post abuse work.

# Key findings

- Safeguarding as a concept is evolving
- Degree and nature of specialism important
- Gaps in the literature remain:
  - How do models of practice impact upon the process and outcomes of investigations?
  - The experience of being perceived as an ‘adult at risk’
  - The impact of the different approaches on the workforce
  - The development of the relationships necessary for effective multi-agency working

- Graham et al. (2014) Models of adult safeguarding in England: A review of the literature. *Journal of Social Work*. Online First. doi: 10.1177/1468017314556205



# Thanks for listening

## Research Team:

- Martin Stevens ([martin.stevens@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:martin.stevens@kcl.ac.uk))
- Caroline Norrie ([caroline.norrie@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:caroline.norrie@kcl.ac.uk))
- Katherine Graham ([katherine.graham@york.ac.uk](mailto:katherine.graham@york.ac.uk))
- Jill Manthorpe ([jill.manthorpe@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:jill.manthorpe@kcl.ac.uk))
- Jo Moriarty ([jo.moriarty@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:jo.moriarty@kcl.ac.uk))
- Shereen Hussein ([shereen.hussein@kcl.ac.uk](mailto:shereen.hussein@kcl.ac.uk))