

Models of Safeguarding: identifying the characteristics of safeguarding practice



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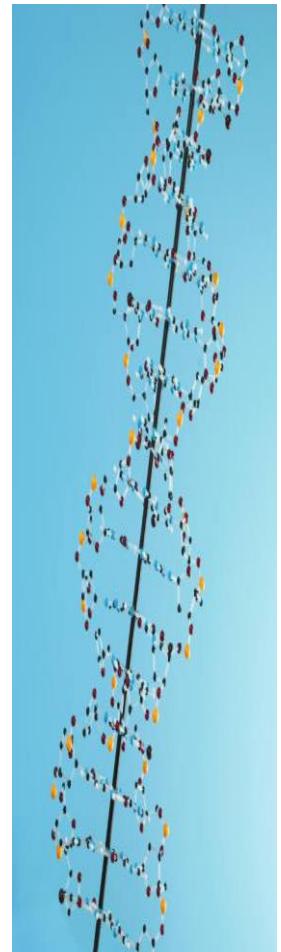
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- The views expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NIHR School for Social Care Research or the Department of Health
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Adult safeguarding in England

- 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">• Any article referring to adult safeguarding / adult protection / adult abuse / elder abuse <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any article referring to safeguarding activity (as above) but regarding specific groups ('elder', learning disabilit*, physical disabilit*, mental health)	<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">• Investigation• Outcomes• Referral• Intervention / response• Organi*ation• Decision	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Abuse• Adult services• Alert• Case conference• Decision Making• Intervention• Investigation• Local authorities• Multi-agency working• Organisation• Outcome• Protection plan• Referral• Response• Risk• Strategy• Structures• Thresholds• Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Literature pre 2000• Safeguarding Children• Self-neglect

Search results from electronic databases

Source	Potentially relevant	Included in initial analysis
Electronic databases: ASSIA Psycinfo Ingenta Social Care Online Social Services Abstracts	424 382 67 450 336	45 46 10 158 64
Hand searched journals: Journal of Adult Protection Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect	56 21	31 9
Reports: Association of Directors of Adult Social Services Care Quality Commission Social Care Institute of Excellence	3 3 2	3 3 1
Books	3	3
Snowballed references	6	6
Combined results	1753	379
After duplicates removed		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*		
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
Total	26	47	79	4

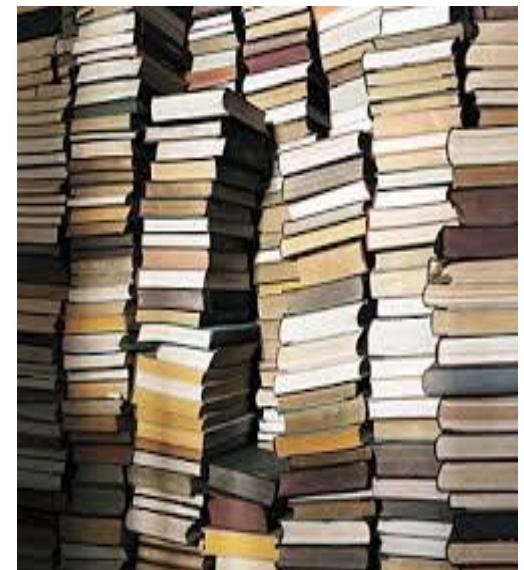
Findings - Themes from literature

Two primary studies were found:

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

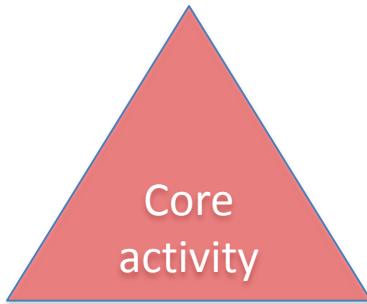
Penhale et al. (2007) Partnerships and Regulation.

- 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

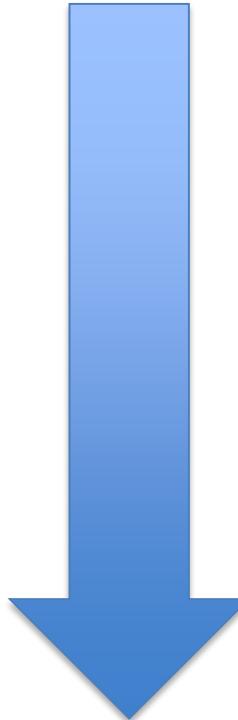
Organisational impacts

- Shifting interpretations

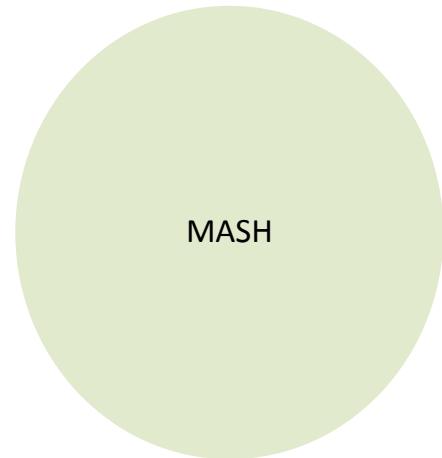
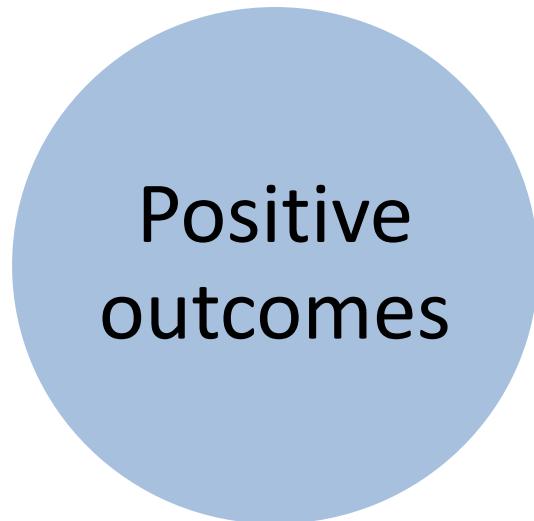
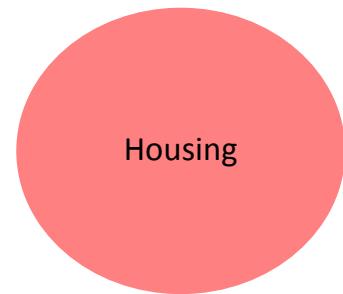
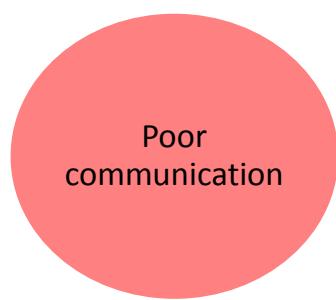
Likelihood of substantiation

- Poor practice?

Ascribed vulnerability



Multi-agency working



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

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