International perspectives on Elder Abuse prevention and intervention

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Introduction and Background

- Historical aspects
- Global phenomenon
- Recent recognition, increasing concern
- Contextual matters
  - Community care and professionals
  - Demographic changes
  - Medical and technological advances
  - Advocacy and Rights agenda

General Points

- Definitional issues
- Lack of awareness of abuse
- Detection and identification problems
- Private issue or public concern?
- Adult protection or elder abuse?
- Risk, vulnerability and protection
- Education and training

The Importance of Naming

- Silence about the topic
- Comparative lack of recognition
- Problems with terminology
- Naming is essential: what is named….
- Primacy of the individual and personal
- Social construction of abuse and violence
- Importance of professional identification

The Need for Differentiation

- Different types of abuse
- Different settings and locations
- Different participants
- Different witnesses
- Different responses and interventions

Critical Factors

- Social and cultural contexts
- Gender and power relations
- Not just family and interpersonal relationships
- Personal, cultural and structural levels
- Micro, meso and macro levels
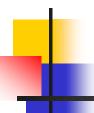- Ageism as a master category

Issues in Responding to Elder Abuse

- An Aging issue?

- A complication of caregiving?

- Family Violence perspective
  - Prevention, protection, punishment

- Apparent tensions:
  - Service & welfare orientation
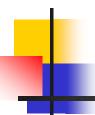 - Justice & criminalisation orientation

Issues relating to Vulnerability

- Person is not vulnerable
- Situation or circumstances may render the person vulnerable to abuse (Penhale and Parker, 2008)
- Scottish approach: Adults at Risk
- Risk assessment, risk management
- Risk enablement

Protection and prevention

- Concept of protection
  - Preventive
  - Reactive
- Protective actions
  - Rules and laws
  - Policies and procedures
  - Action to protect
  - Risk reduction

Protection and prevention

- **Issues of vulnerability**
  - Self
  - Others
- **Levels of Prevention**
  - primary prevention
  - secondary prevention
  - tertiary prevention

Types of Intervention

- Practical
- Legal
- Therapeutic
- Focus on protection and safety
- Focus on autonomy and empowerment
- Victim orientation
- Abuser orientation

Principles of Assessment

- Assessment of need
    - Holistic but abuse-focused
    - Assessment or investigation?
- Care plan
    - Protection or safety planning
- Risk assessment, management and enablement
- Protective responsibility

International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

- Established at IAG World Congress, 1997
- Mission Statement and Objectives, 1998
- Focus on
  - increasing awareness of abuse and neglect
  - promoting education and training
  - advocacy
  - research
- NGO Status, 2003
- Website: http://www.inpea.net

INPEA and Research

- Partnership with:
  - WHO Ageing and Life Course
  - HelpAge International
  - academic institutions
- Study of older people in community and primary health care settings in:

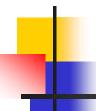|	
Brazil	India
Kenya	Argentina
Lebanon	Canada
Austria	Sweden

INPEA and Education

- National and international representation

- Contributions to WHO and UN reports

- Input into educational materials (eg PAHO)

- Dissemination, research and advocacy for elder abuse issues
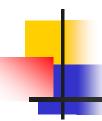
- Political advisory roles

INPEA at International levels

- Representatives
  - 75+ National Representatives
  - Board Members: 2 per region
  - Special Observers and Advisers
- Affiliates
  - Action on Elder Abuse, UK
  - Australian Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
  - Korean Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse
- Official funding

Elder Abuse: Overall context

- A Public Health and Human Rights Issue
- Need to promote positive attitudes of ageing
- Older people perceive elder abuse as:
  - Neglect: isolation, abandonment, social exclusion
  - Violation of human, legal, medical rights
  - Deprivation of choice, decisions, status, finances..
  - Identified discrimination on basis of age
- Key factors:
  - gender
  - socio-economic status

European perspectives

- Cultural and economically diverse region
- Differing meanings and understandings
- 30 year time span
- Legislation and policies
- Intervention strategies
- Research and publications

European Responses

- In EEA
  - France and Italy: Helplines and NGOs
  - Germany: model projects and helplines
  - Belgium: intervention centres, helpline
  - Holland: Awareness raising campaign
  - Ireland: National plan, caseworkers, NCPOP
  - Norway: National Centre, special units
  - Spain: professional guidance, assessment tools
  - England and Wales: policies and procedures
  - Czech Republic: Helpline

European Responses

- In EEA
  - Finland: NGO development and guidance
  - Poland: integration with other systems
  - Israel: legislation, special units, research
  - Portugal: Policy development, NGOs
  - FYR Macedonia: Recent survey
  - Scotland: Legislation, research
  - Sweden: Research, guidance development
- 'New' countries: early work
- Future: research, education, prevention

Recent Research

- **Prevalence studies**
  - Israel
  - Spain
  - UK
  - Germany
  - Poland
  - ABUEL (EU-funded)
  - AVOW (EU-funded)

UK Research on Institutional Abuse

- UK Prevalence Study 2007
  - Community settings only
  - Did not include most frail
  - Acknowledged as under-estimate
- Advisory group recommendation
  - Institutional settings need covering
- Discussions: Department of Health and charity Comic Relief, funding obtained
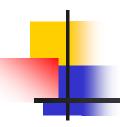
PANICOA Programme

- Decision to conduct a Research Programme
  - Different aspects of institutional care
  - Care homes and NHS settings
  - Does include most frail
- Preventing Abuse and Neglect in Institutional Care of Older Adults
- 9 research studies initially covered, 2 added later
- Commissioning process 2008-2010
- Timeframe for Programme: 2008 – 2012

PANICOA Programme

- Range of studies
  - Dementia, knowledge and training
  - BME experiences, Organisational factors
  - NHS settings: Dignity in Care….
- Scientific Advisor role and overview report
- Advisory group for Programme
- Newsletter, website: www.panicoa.org.uk
- Findings brochures in production
- Dissemination activities

Recent North American Research

- Elder Financial Abuse
- Prevalence study: New York State
- Resident to Resident Abuse
- NCALL Violence initiative
- Canadian Research Chair (Sherbrooke)
- Canadian Preparatory Study

WHO European Report

- Considered evidence for risk factors and interventions
- Prevention requires evidence-base
    - Understand types of intervention
    - Understand effects (+ and -)
    - Understand costs
- Two main approaches: aim to reduce or address elder abuse
- Aim to improve related factors

WHO European Report

- Universal approaches target:
    - general population
    - whole group approach (eg HCPs)
- Selective approaches target those at risk
- Indicated approaches focus on specific target
- Organisational approaches target:
    - Improvement in professional practice

WHO European Report

- Multi-component approaches
- Included wider coverage:
  - Caregiver stress and lack of social support
  - Ageism
- Did not consider more general violence prevention
  - Developing safe relationships
  - Developing life and social skills

WHO European Report

High quality evaluation studies lacking

- Mixed findings for:
    - Professional awareness and education courses
    - Legal, psychological and educational support programmes
    - Restraint reduction programmes
- More research needed to clarify findings

WHO European Report

- Some positive evidence for psychological programmes for abusers
- Further high quality evaluations needed to better understand effects
- Promising evidence for programmes to:
  - Improve caregiver mental health
  - Change attitudes towards older people
- Potential effects on elder abuse not clear

WHO European Report

- Programmes should include clear evaluative framework, including:
  - Outcomes
  - Longer-term follow-up
  - Cost-effectiveness
- More research needed to clarify increases in abuse following some interventions
- Further research needed on costs of implementing elder abuse interventions
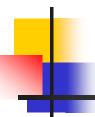
Recent Developments

- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day
- European level initiatives:
  - Research: DAPHNE III Programme
  - Prevalence studies, specific projects
  - Policy level: MILCEA, EUSTaCEA
  - WHO European region
- WHO Violence and Injury Prevention

Future Research possibilities

- Nature of link between dementia and abuse
- Is abuse long-standing or a new response and relation to mental health problems
- Vulnerability, risk and dependency
- Protective factors
- Abuse of different vulnerable groups
- Institutional abuse
- Outcomes: include impact on individual
- Economic issues

Future Research possibilities

- Intervention and prevention studies
  - Model projects and evaluation studies
- Research on impact and effectiveness:
  - Of mistreatment
  - Of interventions
- Specialist teams and practitioners?
- Individualised approaches?
- International collaborative approach?
- Research and development

The Way Forward?

- Improve recognition and awareness of abuse
- Develop standards and systems of accountability
- Develop strategies to prevent and intervene
- Promote education and training
- Improve knowledge and understanding
- International collaboration to prevent abuse

Finally…

- Thanks for being here today
- Thanks for listening
- Thanks for your commitment to this issue
- Together we combine to find solutions to these most complex problems…..

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- WHO (2011) *European report on Elder Maltreatment*, WHO European Office (Rome): WHO [Also cited as Sethi, D. et al (2011) European Report….]

Website references

- http://www.dh.gov.uk (search for No Secrets, Adult Safeguarding, Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards…)

- [www.justice.gov.uk/protecting-the-vulnerable/**mental-capacity-act**](www.justice.gov.uk/protecting-the-vulnerable/mental-capacity-act) (Mental Capacity Act Code of Practice, DOLS….)

- http://www.ssiacymru.org.uk (look at pages on safeguarding and adult protection)

- http://www.scotland.gov.uk (select Health and social care and search for Adult Protection)

- http://www.panicoa.org.uk (PANICOA research programme site)

- http://www.inpea.net (information about International Network)