

Centre for Policy on Ageing
Information Service

Selected Readings

**The Financial Abuse and
Exploitation of Older
People**

July 2018

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2018

Building the adult protective services system of tomorrow: the role of the APS national voluntary consensus guidelines; by Julie Bobitt, Jamie Kuhne, Julie Carter (et al.): Taylor and Francis, January-February 2018, pp 93-101.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 30, no 1, January-February 2018, pp 93-101.

In 2015, the United States Administration for Community Living (ACL) established the first federal "home" for Adult Protective Services (APS). This leadership has included working collaboratively with State Adult Protective Service systems, to ensure that older adults and adults with disabilities are afforded the same protections against abuse, neglect and financial exploitation, regardless of where in the country they live. As part of that leadership, the ACL created draft Voluntary Consensus Guidelines for State APS Systems. The ACL undertook a process of public and stakeholder engagement and analysed the resulting comments to improve the initial draft, to arrive at the final version. This article examines the comments, including concerns raised about specific areas of the Guidelines, areas identified for future research, and reflections and opinions on the role of the federal government in guiding development of the field of adult protection. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

2017

The conceptualization of mistreatment by older American Indians; by Lori L Jervis, William Sconzert-Hall, Shielding American Indian Elders Project Team.: Taylor and Francis, January-February 2017, pp 43-58.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 29, no 1, January-February 2017, pp 43-58.

The problem of how to conceptualise elder mistreatment goes back several decades, and is especially important for ethnic minority populations, who may have perspectives that differ from the dominant society. This community-based participatory research study, which examined perceptions of mistreatment by family among 100 urban and rural older American Indians, permits a rare glimpse into how Native elders themselves understand this issue. Here, good treatment was conceptualised in terms of being taken care of, having one's needs met, and being respected. The authors found relatively high standards for how elders should be treated, such as the belief that an elder's needs should be anticipated and met without the elder needing to ask. This finding was despite widespread accounts of the mistreatment of elders within the community, largely through various acts of financial exploitation and neglect. Substance abuse and culture loss were blamed for much of the elder mistreatment that occurred in contemporary Native communities. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Development of short-form measures to assess four types of elder mistreatment: findings from an evidence-based study of APS elder abuse substantiation decisions; by Scott R Beach, Margeurite DeLiema, Madelyn Iris (et al.): Taylor and Francis, August-October 2017, pp 229-253.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 29, no 4, August-October 2017, pp 229-253.

Improving the standardisation and efficiency of adult protective services (APS) investigations is a top priority in APS practice. Using data from the Elder Abuse Decision Support System (EADSS), the authors developed short-form measures of four types of elder abuse: financial, emotional or psychological, physical, and neglect. The EADSS data set contains 948 elder abuse cases (age 60+) with yes/no abuse substantiation decisions for each abuse type following a 30-day investigation. Item sensitivity and/or specificity analyses were conducted on long-form items, with the substantiation decision for each abuse type as the criterion. Validity was further tested using receiver-operator characteristic (ROC) curve analysis, correlation with long forms and internal consistency. The four resulting short-form measures, containing 36 of the 82 original items, have validity similar to the original long forms. These short forms can be used to standardise and increase efficiency of APS investigations, and may also offer researchers new options for brief elder abuse assessments. (RH)

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From : <http://tandf.com>

Do personal budgets increase the risk of abuse?: Evidence from English national data; by Mohamed Ismail, Shereen Hussein, Martin Stevens (et al.): Cambridge University Press, April 2017, pp 291-311.

Journal of Social Policy, vol 46, no 2, April 2017, pp 291-311.

With the continued implementation of the personalisation policy, Personal Budgets (PBs) have moved to the mainstream in adult social care in England. The relationship between the policy goals of personalisation and safeguarding is contentious. Some have argued that PBs have the potential to empower recipients, while others believe PBs, especially Direct Payments, might increase the risk of abuse. This paper provides empirical

evidence about levels of uptake of PBs and safeguarding referrals in England based on in-depth analysis of national data at aggregate, local council level in England, covering 152 Councils. This is complemented by analysis of 2,209 individual referral records obtained from three purposively selected study sites. The aim is to explore whether available data could provide evidence of association between the uptake of PBs and safeguarding referrals. Analysis of the national dataset found no significant relationships between PB uptake and the level and type of alleged abuse. However, analysis of individual-level referral data, from the three selected sites did find some significant associations, particularly with financial abuse. The analysis found the main perpetrators of the alleged abuse to be home-care employees. The findings are discussed within the context of current policy and practice. (RH)

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From : cambridge.org/JSP

Elder mistreatment predicts later physical and psychological health: results from a national longitudinal study; by Jaclyn S Wong, Linda J Waite.: Taylor and Francis, January-February 2017, pp 15-42.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 29, no 1, January-February 2017, pp 15-42.

Stress process theory predicts that elder mistreatment leads to declines in health, and that social support buffers its ill effects. The authors test this theory using nationally representative, longitudinal data from 2,261 older adults in the US National Social Life Health and Aging Project. They regress psychological and physical health in 2010/2011 on verbal and financial mistreatment experience in 2005/2006, and find that the mistreated have more anxiety symptoms, greater feelings of loneliness, and worse physical and functional health 5 years later than those who did not report mistreatment. In particular, a novel association between financial mistreatment and functional health is shown. Contrary to the stress buffering hypothesis, the authors find little evidence that social support moderates the relationship between mistreatment and health. Their findings point to the lasting impact of mistreatment on health, but show little evidence of a buffering role of social support in this process. (RH)

(RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Financial capacity and financial exploitation of older adults: research findings, policy recommendations and clinical implications; by Stacey Wood, Peter A Lichtenberg.: Taylor and Francis, January-February 2017, pp 3-13.

Clinical Gerontologist, vol 40, no 1, January-February 2017, pp 3-13.

Financial exploitation (FE) of older adults is a social issue and a significant social problem that is beginning to receive the attention that it deserves in the media, thanks to some high profile cases. However, empirical research and clinical guidelines on the topic are just emerging. This review seeks to synthesise the current research (predominantly American) in the area and to develop a conceptual model. The authors describe the significance of the problem. They propose a theoretical model for conceptualising FE, and summarise related areas of research that may be useful to consider in the understanding of FE. They identify key structural issues that have limited interventions in the past, and make specific public policy recommendations in light of the largest intergenerational transfer of wealth in history. The implications for clinical practice are discussed. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

A framework for polyvictimization in later life; by Pamela B Teaster.: Taylor and Francis, November-December 2017, pp 289-298.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 29, no 5, November-December 2017, pp 289-298.

This article provides a context and overview for what is known about polyvictimisation in later life. Drawing from previous literature, the article includes a definition of the phenomenon, as well as theoretical constructs by which it may be understood. In the context of elder abuse, polyvictimisation is also referred to "multi-faceted abuse", "multiple victimisation" or "hybrid co-occurring forms of elder abuse". It can therefore variously include any physical, sexual or psychological abuse, as well as neglect, abandonment and financial exploitation of an older person by another person or entity; and it can occur in any setting. The author places other forms of polyvictimisation within the context of elder abuse, recognises frameworks for conceptualising polyvictimisation in later life, and distinguishes between polyvictimisation at younger ages and polyvictimisation in later life. The paper concludes with implications of the framework for research, practice, and policy. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Kinship care: state of the nation 2017; by Grandparents Plus. London: Grandparents Plus, 2017, 10 pp.
Analysis of 2011 Census data indicates that some 153,000 children in England are being raised by a family member: 51% living with a grandparent, 23% with an older sibling, and the rest living with aunts, uncles, cousins and other relatives. This report is based on responses to a survey from 671 kinship carers living in England and Wales. It finds that although many carers step in to care for children who would have otherwise gone into local authority care, 47% say they do not receive the financial support they need, including 28% who feel very poorly supported. Among other findings are that: 52% of the children in kinship care have experienced abuse or neglect; the average household income for kinship families is just £17,316 (the national average being £27,200); and 65% of carers say they need more emotional support. The report makes recommendations for policy and practice, including: reviewing the status of children in kinship care to be closer to that of looked after children; advice and support for kinship carers; improving financial, practical and emotional support; and increased awareness of the situation of young people in kinship care. (RH)
From : <https://www.grandparentsplus.org.uk/kinship-care-state-of-the-nation-2016>

Mortality among elder abuse victims in rural Malaysia: a two-year population-based descriptive study; by Raudah Mohn Yunus, Noran Naqiah, Wan Yuen Choo (et al.): Taylor and Francis, January-February 2017, pp 59-71.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 29, no 1, January-February 2017, pp 59-71.

Mortality among reported elder abuse experiences in rural Malaysia is examined in this population-based cohort study, using a multistage cluster sampling method. Older adults in Kuala Pilah (n = 1,927) were interviewed between November 2013 and May 2014. Mortality was traced after 2 years using the National Registration Department database. Overall, 139 (7.2%) respondents had died, of whom 15 were abuse victims. Mortality was highest with financial abuse (13%), followed by psychological abuse (10.8%). There was a dose-response relationship between mortality and clustering of abuse: 7%, 7.7%, and 14.0% for no abuse, one type, and two types or more, respectively. Among abuse victims, 40% of deaths had ill-defined causes, 33% were respiratory-related, and 27% had cardiovascular and metabolic origin. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Police and partners: new ways of working together in Montréal; by Marie Beaulieu, Michelle Côté, Luisa Diaz.: Emerald, 2017, pp 406-417.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 19, no 6, 2017, pp 406-417.

The purpose of this paper was to present an inter-agency practice integrated within a police intervention model which was developed for police officers and their partners in Montréal, Canada. The Integrated Police Response for Abused Seniors (IPRAS) action research project (2013-2016) developed, tested and implemented a police intervention model to counter elder abuse. Two linked phases of data collection were carried out: a diagnostic of police practices and needs (year 1) and an evaluation of the implementation of the intervention model and the resulting effects (years 2 and 3). The facilitating elements to support police involvement in inter-agency practices included implementing a coordination structure regarding abuse cases as well as designating clear guidelines of the roles of both the police and their partners. The critical challenges involved staff turnover, time management and the exchange of information. It was recognised by all involved that it was crucial to collaborate while prioritising resource investment and governmental support, with regards to policy and financing, as well as adequate training. The IPRAS model is transferable because its components can be adapted and implemented according to different police services. A guideline for implementing the model is available. In the scientific literature, inter-agency collaboration is highly recommended but only a few models have been evaluated. This paper presents an inter-agency approach embedded in an evaluated police intervention model. (JL)

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From : <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/loi/jap>

Researching the financial abuse of individuals lacking mental capacity; by Gillian Dalley, Mary Lynn Gihooly, Kenneth Gihooly (et al.): Emerald, 2017, pp 394-405.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 19, no 6, 2017, pp 394-405.

This paper reported on an exploratory investigation into the scale and nature of the financial abuse of adults lacking mental capacity. The study comprised of a review of safeguarding adults' statistics; analysis of court case findings; classification of types of financial abuse, victims and perpetrators; qualitative exploration of professional views of the nature of financial abuse of those lacking mental capacity; and a consideration of policy implications. The study demonstrated the significance of financial abuse within the spectrum of abuse experienced by adults at risk; the wide range of both victims lacking capacity being abused and type of financial abuse; its often hidden nature embedded within the family; and the limitations of processes designed to protect.

The investigation revealed the paucity of statistical data available on the nature of financial abuse and the outcomes of official investigations into reported cases, both of which limited analysis and understanding of the phenomenon. It also demonstrated the need for greater transparency and consistency in the reporting of safeguarding and legal processes to enable practitioners and policymakers to fully understand the nature and significance of this abuse for both victims and society. Finally it questioned the extent to which existing protective processes are sufficient in terms of safeguarding victims and deterring perpetrators. (JL)

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From : <http://www.emeraldinsight.com/loi/jap>

Spontaneous concerns about risk and abuse reported by people with dementia and their carers; by Susan M Benbow, Paul Kingston.: Emerald, 2017, pp 92-99.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 19, no 2, 2017, pp 92-99.

The purpose of this paper was to look at concerns about risk and/or abuse expressed spontaneously by people with dementia (PwD) and their carers in narratives describing their journeys with the condition. A total of 35 narratives were elicited from PwD, carers of PwD and couples where one partner was living with dementia as part of a wider study. Participants were found to allude to risk/abuse, or specifically mention thoughts on risk and abuse in their narratives. A secondary analysis of the theme of risk/abuse was also reported. Concerns about risk/exploitation were often expressed in the narratives, and covered a range of areas including driving, safety in the home, safety outdoors, falls, finances, risk to PwD from others, risk to others from PwD, potential or actual police incidents and neglect. In relation to dementia a wide range of risk/abuse issues were found to be of concern to PwD and their carers, especially driving and financial vulnerabilities. PwD and carers were prepared to talk about risk/abuse when given an opportunity. It is important to investigate and understand experiences and concerns about risk/abuse if they are to be addressed in health and social care practice. (JL)

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From : www.emeraldinsight.com/loi/jap

Understanding the financial knowledge gap: a new dimension of inequality in later life; by Mohammad Nuruzzaman Khan, David W Rothwell, Katrina Cherney, Tamara Sussman.: Taylor and Francis, October 2017, pp 487-503.

Journal of Gerontological Social Work, vol 60, nos 6-7, October 2017, pp 487-503.

To understand people's financial behaviours it is important to understand the financial knowledge gap – the distance between one's objective and subjective financial knowledge. Overestimating one's financial knowledge can lead to risky financial behaviours. To date limited empirical work has examined how the financial knowledge gap varies across age groups. The purpose of this study was to analyse the extent and nature of the financial knowledge gap and its variation across age groups. By using nationally representative data the study found robust evidence that older adults overestimate their financial knowledge. Social workers can assess the financial knowledge gap and educate their clients to protect from financial fraud, exploitation and abuse. (JL)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

2016

Age-friendly banking: what it is and how you do it; by David Steele, Age UK; AARP Public Policy Institute. London: Age UK, 2016, 43 pp.

'Age-friendly banking' should mean banking services, products and facilities that remain accessible and easy to use as people age, assist caregivers, and prevent financial exploitation. This report describes some of the challenges faced by older people in using banking and payments systems, and how banks in the UK and USA have been finding solutions to problems facing older customers. It includes 13 case studies of ways in which banks, building societies and clearing services in the UK and the USA are helping customers to avoid scams; prevent fraud, financial abuse or exploitation; and provide accessible services such as mobile bank branches and services for carers. Based on the case studies and feedback from older people, the report presents an agenda for innovation comprising: detecting and stopping financial scams; enabling caregivers to assist with banking; accessible branch banking; designing banking services to be age-friendly; better call handling systems; responding to customer vulnerability; and age-friendly products. An age-friendly banking checklist includes these points, and also seeks improvements that incorporate: appropriate flexibility in identification check; better ways of "passing security"; age-friendly technology; listening carefully and speaking clearly; pathways to better interest rates; removal of age restrictions on financial products; and understanding vulnerability.

From : Age UK, Tavistock House, 1-6 Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9NA.

Download:http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Policy/money-matters/report_age_friendly_banking.pdf?dtrk=true

Cognitive, social, and neural determinants of diminished decision-making and financial exploitation risk in aging and dementia: a review and new model; by R Nathan Spreng, Jason Karlawish, Daniel C Marson.: Taylor and Francis, August-December 2016, pp 320-344.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 28, nos 4-5, August-December 2016, pp 320-344.

The authors briefly review how changes in brain and in cognitive and social functioning, across the spectrum from normal to pathological ageing, can lead to decision-making impairments that increase risk of abuse in many life domains (e.g., health care, social engagement, financial management). Their review specifically focuses on emerging research which identifies neural, cognitive and social markers of declining financial decision-making capacity in older adults. The authors highlight how these findings are opening avenues for early detection and new interventions to reduce risk of exploitation. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

The effect of a family-based intervention with a cognitive-behavioral approach on elder abuse; by Zahra Khanlary, Masoomeh Maarefvand, Akbar Biglarian, Majideh Heravi-Karimooi.: Taylor and Francis, March-May 2016, pp 114-126.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 28, no 2, March-May 2016, pp 114-126.

Elder abuse may become a health issue in developing countries, including Iran. The purpose of this investigation was to study the effectiveness of Family-Based Cognitive-Behavioural Social Work (FBCBSW) in reducing elder abuse. In a randomised clinical trial in Iran, 27 elders participated in intervention and control groups. The intervention groups received a five-session FBCBSW intervention and completed the Domestic-Elder-Abuse-Questionnaire (DEAQ), which evaluates elder abuse at baseline and follow-ups. Repeated measures of analysis of variance (ANOVA) and the Wilcoxon test were used to analyse the data. The repeated measures ANOVA revealed that FBCBSW was successful in reducing elder abuse. The Wilcoxon test indicated that emotional neglect, care neglect, financial neglect, curtailment of personal autonomy, psychological abuse, and financial abuse significantly decreased over time, but there was no statistically significant difference in physical abuse before and after the intervention. The findings from this study suggest that FBCBSW is a promising approach to reducing elder abuse and warrants further study with larger samples. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Elder abuse is a crime - now let's make it one; by Action on Elder Abuse. [London]: Action on Elder Abuse, 2016, 100 pp.

'Elder abuse' is defined as being physical, psychological, financial, sexual abuse and neglect. Action on Elder Abuse (AEA) made Freedom of Information requests to 44 police forces in England and Wales, asking them about their actions in the previous twelve months in relation to elder abuse and neglect, but 40 declined to answer. It is estimated that between 500,000 and 600,000 older people in the UK are abused in their own homes each year. AEA is seeking elder abuse legislation for the UK that would introduce: a criminal offence of elder abuse; mandatory reporting of elder abuse; a crime of theft or fraud of an older person; a court order to prevent further abuse; and a power to access and speak to a potential victim of elder abuse, the general right of access by family and friends, and wrongful isolation. This report discusses the reasons why we need to criminalise elder abuse: victims are often more vulnerable and the impact is often greater; existing laws are not strong enough; older people are less likely to report abuse; the current system is not fit for purpose; criminalisation would increase public awareness and would provide additional safeguards; abuse in care settings is not adequately addressed; and elder abuse is not given sufficient political attention. The report differentiates between elder abuse and adult protection. It offers comparison with other countries; for example, San Diego County, California handles some 9,000 cases of elder and dependent adult abuse each year. The report advocates development of more pro-active prosecution policies, and a political commitment to abused older people. Appendix B presents 23 case studies which summarise the often inadequate outcomes of prosecutions. (RH)

From : Download: <http://www.elderabuse.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/LegislationFinalv3.pdf>

Exploring the boundaries between interpersonal and financial institution mistreatment of older people through a social ecology framework; by Corina Naughton, Jonathan Drennan.: Cambridge University Press, April 2016, pp 694-715.

Ageing and Society, vol 36, no 4, April 2016, pp 694-715.

Interpersonal financial abuse of older people is well documented, but the potential role of financial institutions is rarely examined. Financial institution mistreatment describes direct and indirect practices by financial institutions that threaten older people's financial well-being. This analysis was based on a survey of community-dwelling older people (N = 2,021) aged 65 years and older in Ireland, and examined self-reports of interpersonal and financial institution mistreatment. The prevalence of interpersonal financial abuse was reported by nearly 2% of respondents, compared to 1% for financial institution mistreatment. The socio-demographic and health characteristics of the group who experienced interpersonal financial mistreatment were different from those who reported financial institution mistreatment. The boundaries between the two phenomena were explored using a social ecology framework that reflects the influences of ageism and normative practices on elder abuse. The study confirms previous international evidence on interpersonal financial abuse, and provides preliminary data on financial mistreatment by financial institutions. The evidence has implications for policy and current preventative strategies that tend to ignore the influence of macro-contextual factors such as legislative and institutional normative practices, government policies and societal attitudes that can act as permissors of some types of financial mistreatment. (RH)

ISSN: 0144686X

From : journals.cambridge.org/aso

Five-year all-cause mortality rates across five categories of substantiated elder abuse occurring in the community; by Jason Burnett, Shelly L Jackson, Arup K Sinha (et al.): Taylor and Francis, March-May 2016, pp 59-75.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 28, no 2, March-May 2016, pp 59-75.

Elder abuse increases the likelihood of early mortality, but little is known regarding which types of abuse may be resulting in the greatest mortality risk. This American study included 1,670 cases of substantiated elder abuse, and estimated the 5-year all-cause mortality for five types of elder abuse (caregiver neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse, financial exploitation, and polyvictimisation). Statistically significant differences in 5-year mortality risks were found between abuse types and across gender. Caregiver neglect and financial exploitation had the lowest survival rates, underscoring the value of considering the long-term consequences associated with different forms of abuse. Likewise, mortality differences between genders and abuse types indicate the need to consider this interaction in elder abuse case investigations and responses. Further mortality studies are needed in this population, to better understand these patterns and the implications for public health and clinical management of community-dwelling elder abuse victims. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

From "intrusive" and "excessive" to financially abusive?: charitable and religious fund-raising amongst vulnerable older people; by Mark Redmond.: Emerald, 2016, pp 86-95.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 18, no 2, 2016, pp 86-95.

The purpose of this paper was to explore the nature of both charitable and religious fundraising amongst vulnerable older adults, particularly in the wake of the suicide of 92-year-old Olive Clarke in the Spring of 2015. The author argues that fundraising amongst vulnerable older adults is largely unregulated and independently monitored, hence ensuring the protection of this group requires substantial change and new accountabilities. The paper explores current approaches to financial abuse and the focus on family and professional carers as the main likely perpetrators. However using literature from both the USA and Australia, it considers notions of 'trust' and professional behaviour, and the way that vulnerable older adults are subject to new forms of abuse as a result of financial technology such as online and telephone banking. It links this with the practices of charitable fundraisers using techniques such as cold calling and direct mail. The circumstances surrounding the death of Olive Clarke suggest that charities and those who fundraise for them appear to engage in a practice whereby they sell the names of likely donors to each other. This practice opens opportunities for abusive relationships to take place. At the same time many clergy operate like the single GP surgeries that allowed Harold Shipman to practise unnoticed and unaccountable. The relationship between clergy and their ageing congregations, who are relied upon to raise funds for church activities, open up the opportunity for abuse to take to place. Few records on charitable giving exist that permit regulation and independent scrutiny. Following the death of Olive Clarke the Fundraising Standards Board has been tasked with reviewing the way charities raise funds amongst vulnerable older adults. No one has yet used the language of financial abuse, choosing to opt rather for the terms 'excessive' and 'intrusive'. There is a need to shift this debate and encourage greater regulation and accountability. (JL)

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From : www.emeraldgroupublishing.com/jap.htm

Knowledge translation regarding financial abuse and dementia for the banking sector: the development and testing of an education tool; by Carmelle Peisah, Sangita Bhatia, Jenna Macnab, Henry Brodaty.: Wiley Blackwell, July 2016, pp 702-707.

International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, vol 31, no 7, July 2016, pp 702-707.

Financial abuse is the most common form of elder abuse. Capacity Australia, established to promote education regarding capacity and abuse prevention across health, legal and financial sectors, was awarded a grant by the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre to educate the banking sector on financial abuse and dementia. In this study the authors aimed to develop a knowledge translation tool for bank staff on the issue. The banking sector across Australia was engaged and consulted to develop a tailored education tool based on Australian Banking Association's Guidelines on Financial Abuse Prevention, supplemented by information related to dementia, financial capacity and supported decision-making. The tool was tested on 69 banking staff across Australia from two major banks. An online education tool using adaptive learning was developed, comprising a pre-test of 15 multiple choice questions, followed by a learning module tailored to the individual's performance on the pre-test, and a post-test to assess knowledge translation. A significant increase in scores was demonstrated when baseline scores were compared with post-course scores. The tool took approximately 10-20 minutes to complete depending on the knowledge of participant and continuity of completion. The Australian banking industry was amenable to assist in the development of a tailored education tool on dementia, abuse and financial capacity. This online e-tool provides an effective medium for knowledge translation. (JL)

ISSN: 08856230

From : www.orangejournal.org

The Lichtenberg Financial Decision Screening Scale (LFDSS): a new tool for assessing financial decision making and preventing financial exploitation; by Peter A Lichtenberg, Lisa Ficker, Analise Rahman-Filipiak (et al).: Routledge, June-July 2016, pp 134-151.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 28, no 3, June-July 2016, pp 134-151.

One of the challenges in preventing the financial exploitation of older adults is that neither criminal justice nor non-criminal justice professionals are equipped to detect capacity deficits. Because decision-making capacity is a cornerstone assessment in cases of financial exploitation, effective instruments for measuring this capacity are essential. The authors introduce a new screening scale for financial decision making that can be administered to older adults. To explore the implementation and assess the construct validity of the Lichtenberg Financial Decision Screening Scale (LFDSS), the authors conducted a pilot study of 29 older adults seen by APS (Adult Protective Services) workers and 79 seen by other professionals. Case examples are included. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Positives and negatives of online dating according to women 50+; by Carla Vandeweerd, Jaime Myers, Martha Coulter (et al).: Routledge, [May-June] 2016, pp 259-270 (IN: Journal of Women and Aging, vol 28, nos 1-3, 2016).

Journal of Women and Aging, vol 28, no 3, [May-June] 2016, pp 259-270 (IN: Journal of Women and Aging, vol 28, nos 1-3, 2016).

To understand the positives and negatives of online dating according to the lived experience of older women, telephone interviews were conducted with 45 American women aged 50+ living within 50 miles of zip code 33602 (Tampa, Florida) who date online. Interviews were audio recorded, transcribed verbatim, and thematically team coded. The opportunity to expand one's social network for both friendships and romantic partners, the ability to control dating risks and pace of relationship formation, and knowing more about one's partner were significant reported benefits of online dating. Dating online also includes unique risks, such as pervasive lying, attempted financial exploitation in the form of scammers, and unwanted electronic sexual aggression. (RH)

ISSN: 08952841

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Prevalence and associated factors of elder mistreatment: a cross sectional study from urban Nepal; by Uday Narayan Yadav, Grish Paudel.: Oxford University Press, September 2016, pp 609-614.

Age and Ageing, vol 45, no 5, September 2016, pp 609-614.

Mistreatment of older people is internationally recognised as a serious public health issue. This study aimed to estimate the prevalence and risk factors associated with mistreatment in urban Nepal. This was a descriptive cross-sectional study of 212 older people residing in Butwal, an urban area in Nepal; the study was conducted

between March and October 2015. Two-stage cluster design with simple random sampling was adopted for the study. Information was collected using an interviewer administered semi-structured questionnaire of older people. Logistic regression analysis was used to identify factors associated with elder mistreatment. The study found a prevalence of 49.1% for mistreatment of the older population. Prevalence rates of caregiver neglect, financial, psychological or physical mistreatment and other types (including sexual assault) were 47.2%, 11.8%, 10.8%, 1.42% and 3.3%, respectively. Being a dalit (untouchable, backward class in the traditional Hindu caste system), being unemployed, widowed, divorced or separated, having problems concentrating, and smoking were independent factors associated with mistreatment. Smoking was found to be consistently associated with the three most common mistreatment types. Mistreatment of older people is common in urban Nepal, with neglect, financial and psychological abuse most common. Along with standard risk factors, specific ethnic issues (membership of dalit community) are associated with increased risk. (RH)

ISSN: 00020729

From : www.ageing.oxfordjournals.org

Special issue on multiple approaches to understanding and preventing elder abuse: proceedings of the Cross-disciplinary National Institutes of Health Workshop; by Katherine Witte Saylor (ed), National Institutes of Health (United States): Taylor and Francis, August-December 2016, pp 179-365.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 28, nos 4-5, August-December 2016, pp 179-365.

On October 30, 2015, the US National Institutes of Health (NIH) convened a workshop, Multiple Approaches to Understanding and Preventing Elder Abuse, in Bethesda, MD. The workshop brought together experts from across disciplines to discuss research challenges, opportunities and lessons learned from other fields. Participants included experts in elder abuse (including financial abuse), neglect, child abuse, intimate partner violence (IPV), emergency medicine, and neuroscience. Articles in this special issue of the Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect examine topics explored before, during and after the workshop. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

2015

Did anyone notice the transformation of adult social care?: An analysis of Safeguarding Adult Board annual reports; by Jill Manthorpe, Martin Stevens, Kritika Samsi (et al): Emerald, 2015, pp 19-30.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 17, no 1, 2015, pp 19-30.

The authors report on a part of a study examining the interrelationships between personalisation and safeguarding practice. Specifically, the authors aimed to examine how safeguarding practice is affected by the roll-out of personalisation in adult social care, particularly when the adult at risk of financial abuse has a personal budget or is considering this. A sample of annual reports from Adult Safeguarding Boards in England was accessed for content analysis covering the period 2009-2011. One part of this sample of local authorities was selected at random; the other authorities selected had been early adopters of personalisation. The reports were analysed using a pro forma to collect salient information on personalisation that was cross-referenced to identify common themes and differences. The authors found variable mentions of personalisation as part of the macro policy context reported in the annual reviews, some examples of system or process changes at meso level where opportunities to discuss the interface were emerging, and some small reports of training and case accounts relevant to personalisation. Overall, these two policy priorities seemed to be more closely related than had been found in earlier research on the interface between adult safeguarding and personalisation. There was wide variation in the annual reports in terms of detail, size and content, and reports for only one year were collected. Developments may have taken place, but might not have been recorded in the annual reports; so these should not be relied upon as complete accounts of organisational or practice developments. Authors of Safeguarding Adults Board reports may benefit from learning that their reports may be read both immediately and potentially in the future. They may wish to ensure their comments on current matters will be intelligible to possible future readers and researchers. There does not appear to have been any other previous study of Safeguarding Adult Boards' annual reports. Documentary analysis at local level is under-developed in safeguarding studies. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : www.emeraldinsight.com/jap.htm

Elder abuse in Portugal: findings from the first national prevalence study; by Ana Paula Martins Gil, Irina Kislaya, Ana Joao Santos (et al): Taylor and Francis, June-July 2015, pp 174-195.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 27, no 3, June-July 2015, pp 174-195.

In this study, the authors present findings of the Portuguese national prevalence study, "Aging and Violence", the purpose of which was to estimate the prevalence of abuse and neglect of older people in family settings over

a 12-month period, and to examine the relationship between abuse and sociodemographic and health characteristics. Through a telephone survey of a representative probability sample (N = 1,123), the authors evaluated 12 abusive behaviours and demographic data. Overall, 12.3% of older adults experienced elder abuse in family settings. The prevalence rates of specific types were as follows: psychological, 6.3%; financial, 6.3%; physical, 2.3%; neglect, 0.4%; and sexual, 0.2%. Logistic regression was employed to determine the relationship between abuse and covariates. The study suggests that education level, age, and functional status are significantly associated with abuse. Accurate estimates of the prevalence of elder abuse and understanding of victim and perpetrator characteristics are fundamental to designing effective strategies for prevention and intervention. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Financial abuse: evidence review; by Susan Davidson, Phil Rossall, Sarah Hart, Age UK. London: Age UK, November 2015, 31 pp (Age UK Research).

This evidence review is intended to sum up what is known about the financial abuse of older people. It aims to provide answers regarding the prevalence of financial abuse, who is at most risk, who the perpetrators are, the impacts, and the barriers against recognition and action on financial abuse. It also looks at the cues that indicate that financial abuse is happening; problems with detecting, reporting, and resolving financial abuse; and the additional problems can financial abuse bring. It outlines the problems faced by people with dementia and carers when managing money, and the impact of cultural values on determining behaviour. It also covers preventative measures that could be taken by financial institutions, and health and care staff. An appendix itemises other measures that have been suggested measures for the prevention and detection of financial abuse. It should be noted that commercial abuse (scams) is not covered in any detail. (RH)

From : Download: http://www.ageuk.org.uk/Documents/EN-GB/For-professionals/Research/Financial_Abuse_Evidence_Review-Nov_2015.pdf?dtrk=true

Neglect, abuse, and violence against older women: Special issue; by Elsie Yan, Patricia Brownell (eds): Taylor and Francis, August-December 2015, pp 277-526.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 27, nos 4-5, August-December 2015, pp 277-526.

The Division for Social Policy and Development of the United Nations (UN) Department of Economic and Social Affairs organised an Expert Group Meeting on Neglect, Abuse and violence of Older Women, which was held 5-7 November 2013. The meeting focused on the conceptual policy and societal challenges related to neglect, abuse, and violence against older women. Papers in this special issue of Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect are part of the outcome of that EGM. While international in perspective, most of the papers report on situations in the US; other countries that are considered are Serbia (this is on financial abuse), Ghana, China, Canada and Australia. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Payday loans: new rules beginning to work ... but lenders must be kept under scrutiny; by Citizens Advice.: Dignity Publishing, July/August 2015, pp 18-21.

Dignity, no 5, July/August 2015, pp 18-21.

In every firm investigated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), researchers discovered 'systems errors' or 'process failures' that led customers being overcharged. This article draws attention to a review undertaken by the FCA, which found breaches under Section 77A of the Consumer Credit Act, unfair treatment of customers by payday lenders and other HCSTC (high-cost short-term credit) providers, and widespread abuse of vulnerable customers. The article also notes that some firms have taken steps towards good practice. (RH)

Protecting victims of elder financial exploitation: the role of an elder abuse forensic center in referring victims for conservatorship; by Zachary D Gassoumis, Adria E Navarro, Kathleen H Wilber.: Taylor and Francis, 2015, pp 790-798.

Aging and Mental Health, vol 19, no 9, 2015, pp 790-798.

The authors examined the extent to which an Elder Abuse Forensic Center protects financial exploitation (FE) victims through referral to the Office of the Public Guardian (PG) for investigation and possible conservatorship (called 'guardianship' in many US states, also in the UK). Los Angeles County Elder Abuse Forensic Center cases involving adults aged 65+ (April 2007-December 2009) were matched using one-to-one propensity-score matching to 33,650 usual care Adult Protective Services (APS) cases. The final analysis sample consisted of 472 FE cases. Compared to usual care, Forensic Center cases were more likely to be referred to the PG for investigation (30.6%, n = 72 vs 5.9%, n = 14, p < .001). The strongest predictors of PG referral were suspected cognitive impairment, as identified by APS (odds ratio [OR] = 11.69, confidence intervals [CI]: 3.50-39.03),

and Forensic Center review (OR = 7.85, CI: 3.86-15.95). Among referred cases, the court approved conservatorship at higher rates - though not statistically significant - for Forensic Center cases than usual care (52.9%, n = 36/68 vs. 41.7%, n = 5/12). Conservatorship may be a necessary last resort to improve safety for some FE victims, and the Forensic Center appears to provide a pathway to this service. These findings suggest modification to the Elder Abuse Forensic Center conceptual model, and contribute to an emerging body of evidence on the role of the Forensic Center in addressing elder abuse. (RH)

ISSN: 13646915

From : <http://tandfonline.com>

The role of the Court of Protection in safeguarding; by Alex Ruck Keene, Kelly Stricklin-Coutinho, Henry Gilfillan.: Emerald, 2015, pp 380-390.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 17, no 6, 2015, pp 380-390.

The purpose of this paper was to outline how questions relating to capacity arise in the context of safeguarding, and when applications to the Court of Protection are required in relation to those who may lack capacity. It also sought to provide guidance as to how applications to the Court of Protection should be made so as to ensure that they are determined effectively and in a proportionate fashion. The paper drew on the practical experience of practising barristers appearing before the Court of Protection, and on the experience of a social worker who was an MCA/DOLS lead at a London local authority. Overall study findings showed that when to go to the Court of Protection in the safeguarding context is poorly understood, and there has not been proper recognition of the fact that proceedings for 'adult care orders' have a strong forensic analogy with applications for care orders in relation to children. It is only by recognising these forensic similarities that local authorities can make proper use of the Court of Protection in the discharge of their duties to vulnerable adults in their area. (JL)

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From : www.emeraldgroupublishing.com/jap.htm

"Winning and losing": vulnerability to mass marketing fraud; by Sean Oliver, Trish Burls, Lee-Ann Fenge, Keith Brown.: Emerald, 2015, pp 360-370.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 17, no 6, 2015, pp 360-370.

The purpose of this paper was to report the findings from a small qualitative study of victims of mass marketing fraud (MMF) and financial scams, exploring how they become involved in such activity and then sustain their involvement. The paper concludes with recommendations for practitioners involved in supporting vulnerable older people. The paper highlights a range of predisposing risk factors to MMF which emerged as key themes including the psycho-social background of the victim, emotional vulnerability, the need for meaningful activity and opportunities for engagement in meaningful social activity. The study concludes that professionals need to develop increased understanding of the complexities of sustained involvement in MMF, and the ways in which fraudsters manipulate potential victims by 'grooming' and luring through plausible schemes which appear genuine to the victim. (JL)

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From : www.emeraldgroupublishing.com/jap.htm

2014

Correlates of susceptibility to scams in older adults without dementia; by Bryan D James, Patricia A Boyle, David A Bennett.: Taylor and Francis, March-May 2014, pp 107-122.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 26, no 2, March-May 2014, pp 107-122.

Millions of older Americans are targets of telemarketing fraud, internet fraud and other scams each year, resulting in loss to the victims estimated at some \$2.9 billion annually from financial fraud alone. This study examined correlates of susceptibility to scams in 639 community-dwelling older adults without dementia from the Rush Memory and Aging Project, a cohort study of ageing in the Chicago metropolitan area. Regression models adjusted for age, sex, education, and income were used to examine associations between susceptibility to scams, measured by a five-item self-report measure, and a number of potential correlates. Susceptibility was positively associated with age and negatively associated with income, cognition, psychological well-being, social support, and literacy. Fully adjusted models indicated that older age and lower levels of cognitive function, decreased psychological well-being, and lower literacy in particular may be markers of susceptibility to financial victimization in old age. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Enduring Powers of Attorney: promoting attorneys' accountability as substitute decision makers; by Cheryl Tilse, Jill Wilson, Ben White ... (et al.): Wiley, September 2014, pp 193-197.

Australasian Journal on Ageing, vol 33, no 3, September 2014, pp 193-197.

The misuse and abuse of Enduring Powers of Attorney (EPAs), particularly in relation to financial decision-making, is a growing concern. This paper explores the opportunities to enhance accountability of attorneys at the time of the execution of the document in Queensland. A four-stage multi-method design comprised a critical reference group; semi-structured interviews with 32 principals or potential principals, attorneys and witnesses; two focus groups with service providers and a state-wide survey of 76 principals, attorneys and witnesses. Across all methods and user groups, understanding the role and obligations of the attorney in an EPA was consistently identified as problematic. Promoting accountability and understanding can be addressed by greater attention to the role of the attorney in the forms and/or guidelines and in the structure and witnessing of the forms, increased direction about record keeping and access to appropriate advice and support. (JL)

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From : wileyonlinelibrary.com/journal/ajag

Hidden abuse of the 'thrifty' generation; by Shahid Naqvi.: British Association of Social Workers, November 2014, pp 14-15.

Professional Social Work, November 2014, pp 14-15.

Financial abuse is one of the most complex forms of mistreatment experienced by older people, and has become an increasingly significant area of work for social workers. In 2013, almost £25 million was stolen or conned from older people in the UK, with 74% of perpetrators being family members. This article considers the hidden nature of financial abuse and the steps to safeguard older people. (RH)

ISSN: 13523112

From : www.basw.co.uk

A review on elder care and mistreatment in Macao; by Derrick C K Tam, Eilo W Y Yu, Anise M S Wu.: Emerald, 2014, pp 294-306.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 16, no 5, 2014, pp 294-306.

Mistreatment of older people is a neglected issue in Macao's elder policy. The purpose of this paper is to review the current elder policy as well as legislation on the prevention and management of elder mistreatment in Macao and to provide practical suggestions to improve the situation. This paper reviews government documents and statistics on elder services and policy of Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR) government. The authors interviewed frontline social workers for the phenomenon of elder mistreatment in Macao as well as the issues and problems in handling abuse cases. The authors argue that the MSAR government has paid attention to financial aid to its senior citizens. In terms of elder care services, the government outsources various elder care services to nonprofit organisations and other private bodies. However, this public-private partnership approach cannot adequately coordinate service providers to prevent and manage elder mistreatment. Furthermore, Macao-mainland integration has encouraged more and more older people to stay in mainland China. Stronger government initiatives are needed to collaborate with Macao society, as well as mainland authorities, regarding the mistreatment of Macao elders. There are very few studies on elder mistreatment in Macao. This paper aims to draw the attention of Macao government and public as well as academics to the issue. (JL)

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From : www.emeraldinsight.com/jap.htm

Risks of financial abuse of older people with dementia: findings from a survey of UK voluntary sector dementia community services staff; by Kritika Samsi, Jill Manthorpe, Karishma Chandaria.: Emerald, 2014, pp 180-192.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 16, no 3, 2014, pp 180-192.

Financial abuse of people with dementia is of rising concern to family carers, the voluntary sector and professionals. Little is known about preventive and early response practice among community services staff. The purpose of this paper was to investigate voluntary sector staff's views of the risks of managing money when a person has dementia and to explore ways that individuals may be protected from the risks of financial abuse. An online survey of staff of local Alzheimer's Society groups across England was conducted in 2011 and was completed by 86 respondents. Open-ended responses supplemented survey questions. Statistical analysis and content analysis identified emergent findings. Most respondents stated that people with dementia experienced problems with money management, with almost half the respondents reporting encountering cases of financial abuse over the past year. Most were alert to warning signs and vulnerabilities and offered suggestions relevant to practice and policy about prevention and risk minimisation. These findings show that adult safeguarding practitioners are likely to encounter money management uncertainties and concerns about exploitation of people with dementia. They may be contacted by community-based support staff from the voluntary sector about individual queries but could ensure that such practitioners are engaged in local training and networking activities

to promote their skills and confidence. As with other forms of elder abuse, professionals need to be aware of risks of financial abuse and be able to suggest effective yet acceptable preventive measures and ways to reduce risks of harm and loss. Further publicity about adult safeguarding services may be needed among local community support services. (JL)

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From : www.emeraldinsight.com/jap.htm

Understanding elder abuse and neglect in aging Chinese immigrants in Canada; by Daniel W L Lai, Gabrielle D Daoust, Lun Li.: Emerald, 2014, pp 322-334.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 16, no 5, 2014, pp 322-334.

The purpose of this paper was to review and discuss existing literature and available research findings related to understanding elder abuse and neglect in culturally diverse communities, particularly the Chinese immigrant community in Canada. The conceptual understandings of elder abuse were examined, based upon the socio-cultural context and challenges faced by ageing Chinese immigrants. Previous literature and research publications related to elder abuse and neglect related to Chinese in Canada were reviewed and synthesised. Findings showed that from a culturally diverse perspective, influence of race, ethnicity, immigrant status and cultural norms on the recognition, identification, prevention and intervention of elder abuse and neglect are important to consider. A key message for professionals working with the ageing population, particularly older immigrants from ethno-cultural minority backgrounds, is that understanding the social cultural context in which elder abuse or neglect emerges is critical. For many of the ageing Chinese immigrants in Canada, the socio-cultural circumstances that they have experienced, their social environment, and various barriers and challenges further prevent them from being aware of this emerging concern. Cultural norms and practices have played a critical role in their access to preventive and intervention services. This paper is a first attempt in the research community to synthesise a few critical issues related to elder abuse and neglect in the ageing Chinese immigrant community in Canada. In order to provide culturally competent services, service providers should be aware of cultural differences in attitudes towards elder mistreatment, including the ways in which specific types of abuse (e.g. financial abuse) are defined within ethno-cultural communities. (JL)

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From : www.emeraldinsight.com/jap.htm

2013

Assessing knowledge of elder financial abuse: a first step in enhancing prosecutions; by Sheri C Gibson, Edie Greene.: Taylor and Francis, March/May 2013, pp 162-182.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 25, no 2, March/May 2013, pp 162-182.

In the US, financial exploitation by a family member is the most common form of elder mistreatment, yet it is a difficult crime to detect and prosecute. Psychologists have traditionally assisted prosecution by assessing decision making capacity and opining in court whether an alleged victim was able to consent to the contested transactions. This article proposes and evaluates a novel form of psychological expertise in financial abuse trials - social framework testimony, to re-educate jurors who are misinformed about aspects of this largely hidden crime. Findings suggest that, as in cases of child and spousal abuse, social framework testimony on the general dispositional situational factors inherent in elder financial abuse may enhance prosecutions. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Asset rich cash poor in the economic downturn: the financial challenges facing retired older people; by Sarah Hean, Louise Worswick, Lee-Ann Fenge (et al), Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland - ICAS; Scottish Accountancy Trust for Education and Research - SATER. Edinburgh: Research Committee of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland, 2013, 57 pp.

Older people are thought to be particularly vulnerable during times of economic downturn. This report looks at the experience of a specific group of retired home owners age 65+ in Poole and Bournemouth, Dorset, who are living on modest incomes and not in receipt of means tested state pensions, the so-called "asset rich cash poor" (ARCP). This project investigates how this group managed their financial circumstances the impact of the downturn on their well-being and quality of life; and whether services and support available to this group and other older people could be improved. The study found that many ARCP older people, particularly women, had done little retirement planning; and they tended to manage the money they had very carefully and had an aversion to debt. The combination of reduced income from investments, increases in pensions which do not keep pace with inflation, combined with increases in costs for essential and non-essential expenditure, is having an impact on social, physical and mental well-being, and is causing noticeable lifestyle changes. Cuts to public and third sector services are similarly being affected by the economic downturn, and having an indirect impact

on older people. In order to make ends meet, some ARCP older people may take greater financial risks or be more vulnerable to abuse in an economic downturn. While this report recognises the strengths within older people to manage money, the authors suggest that there is a need for more appropriate financial advice and support for this group. (RH)

Price: £10.00

From : ICAS, CA House, 21 Haymarket Yards, Edinburgh EH12 5BH. research@icas.org.uk
www.icas.org.uk/research

Elder abuse: a systematic review of risk factors in community-dwelling elders; by Mark Johannesen, Dina LoGuidice.: Oxford University Press, May 2013, pp 292-298.

Age and Ageing, vol 42, no 3, May 2013, pp 292-298.

The aim of this study was to undertake a systematic literature review of risk factors for abuse in community-dwelling older adults as a first step towards exploring the clinical utility of a risk factor framework. A search was undertaken using the MEDLINE, CINAHL, EMBASE and PsycINFO databases for articles published in English up to March 2011 in order to identify original studies with statistically significant risk factors for abuse in community-dwelling adults aged 55 and above. 49 studies met the inclusion criteria, with 13 risk factors being reproducible across a range of settings in high-quality studies. These concerned the older person (cognitive impairment, behavioural problems, psychiatric illness or psychological problems, functional dependency, poor physical health or frailty, low income or wealth, trauma or past abuse and ethnicity), perpetrator (caregiver burden or stress, and psychiatric illness or psychological problems), relationship (family disharmony, poor or conflictual relationships) and environment (low social support and living with others except for financial abuse). Current evidence supports the multifactorial aetiology of elder abuse involving risk factors within the older person, perpetrator, relationship and environment. (JL)

ISSN: 00020729

From : www.ageing.oxfordjournals.org

Elder abuse through a life course lens; by Lynn McDonald, Cynthia Thomas.: Cambridge University Press, August 2013, pp 1235-1243.

International Psychogeriatrics, vol 25, no 8, August 2013, pp 1235-1243.

This paper presents findings from a large pilot study, Defining and Measuring Elder Abuse and Neglect, a precursor to a national prevalence study to be conducted in Canada beginning in September 2013. One purpose of this study and the focus of this paper was to determine whether a life course perspective would provide a useful framework for examining elder abuse. The two-year pilot study, which took place from 2009-2011, examined the prevalence of perceptions of abuse at each life stage by type of abuse, the importance of early life stage abuse in predicting types of elder abuse and early life stage abuse as a risk factor for elder abuse. A sample of 267 older adults aged 55 years or over completed a cross-sectional telephone survey comprising measures of five types of elder abuse (neglect, physical, sexual, psychological, and financial) and their occurrence across the life course: childhood (17 years or below), young adulthood (18-24 years) and older adulthood (5 to 12 months prior to the interview date). Data analyses included descriptive statistics, bivariate correlations for abuse at the various life stages and the estimation of logistic regression models that examined predictors of late life abuse, and multinomial logistic regression models predicting the frequency of abuse. Results showed that 55% of the sample reported abuse during childhood and 34.1% reported abuse during young adulthood. 43% said they were abused during mature adulthood and 24.4% said they were abused since age 55 but prior to the interview date of the study. Psychological (42.3%), physical (26.6%) and sexual abuses (32.2%) were the most common abuses in childhood while psychological abuse was the most common type of abuse at each life stage. When the risk factors for abuse were considered simultaneously including abuse during all three life stages, only a history of abuse during childhood retained its importance. Abuse in childhood increased the risk of experiencing one type of abuse relative to no abuse, but was also unrelated to experiencing two or more types of abuse compared to no abuse. These results suggest that a life course perspective provides a useful framework for understanding elder abuse and neglect. The findings indicate that a childhood history of abuse in this sample had a deciding influence on later mistreatment, over and above what happens later in life. (JL)

ISSN: 10416102

From : journals.cambridge.org/ipg

Framing abuse: explaining the incidence, perpetuation, and intervention in elder abuse; by Yuliya Mysyuk, Rudi G J Westendorp, Jolanda Lindenberg.: Cambridge University Press, August 2013, pp 1267-1274.

International Psychogeriatrics, vol 25, no 8, August 2013, pp 1267-1274.

The role of individual characteristics in incidences of elder abuse has long been highest on research and policy agendas. Now it is timely to discuss factors that go beyond victim and perpetrator. Environmental factors also play an important role in elder abuse. In this paper the authors address the framing of elder abuse as a social and

health problem. Attention is paid to the factors that influence societal context and the healthcare system, its organisation, structure and principles. Focus groups and in-depth semi-structured interviews were held with different professionals and older people themselves. Qualitative analysis of focus groups and interview transcripts were performed to analyse how different professional groups and older persons themselves view elder abuse, to determine opinions and attitudes toward elder abuse and the necessary actions that should be taken to prevent or intervene in the problem. Two main explanatory frameworks emerged in the discourse of older persons and care professionals: social arrangements and healthcare system. The themes within the social arrangements included social taboo, social control and responsibility, and institutional cultures. The fragmentation of care and changes in the financing of healthcare were two aspects distinguished within the framework of the healthcare system. Two explanatory frameworks showed elder abuse as both a social and health problem. The environmental factors through social arrangements and healthcare system have an influence on framing of abuse. The different ways of framing abuse impact the understanding of abuse, ways of intervention and prevention measures. (JL)

ISSN: 10416102

From : journals.cambridge.org/ipg

Framing the detection of financial elder abuse as bystander intervention: decision cues, pathways to detection and barriers to action; by Mary L M Gilhooly, Deborah Cairns, Miranda Davies ... (et al.): Emerald, 2013, pp 54-68.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 15, no 2, 2013, pp 54-68.

The purpose of this paper was to explore the detection and prevention of elder financial abuse through the lens of a 'professional bystander intervention model'. The authors were interested in the decision cues that raised suspicions of financial abuse, how such abuse came to the attention of professionals who did not have a statutory responsibility for safeguarding older adults, and the barriers to intervention. In-depth interviews were conducted using the critical incident technique. Thematic analysis was carried out on transcribed interviews. In total, 20 banking and 20 health professionals were recruited. Participants were asked to discuss real cases which they had dealt with personally. The cases described indicated that a variety of cues were used in coming to a decision that financial abuse was very likely taking place. Common to these cases was a discrepancy between what was normal and expected and what was abnormal or unexpected. There was a marked difference in the type of abuse noticed by banking and health professionals, drawing attention to the ways in which context influenced the likelihood that financial abuse would be detected. The study revealed that even if professionals suspected abuse, there were barriers which prevented them acting. The originality of this study lies in its use of the bystander intervention model to study the decision-making processes of professionals who are not explicitly charged with adult safeguarding. The study was also unique because real cases were under consideration. Hence what the professionals actually do, rather than what they might do, was under investigation. (JL)

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From : www.emeraldinsight.com/jap.htm

Governance in adult safeguarding in Scotland since the implementation of the Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007; by Sally Cornish, Michael Preston-Shoot.: Emerald, 2013, pp 223-236.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 15, no 5, 2013, pp 223-236.

The Adult Support and Protection (Scotland) Act 2007 (ASPSA 2007) places a duty on local councils to make inquiries about a person's well-being, property or financial affairs, where it seems that the person may be at risk and need protection or other intervention. This paper reports the findings from research into the governance of adult protection in Scotland, with particular focus on the outcomes of provision for multi-agency leadership and management of adult safeguarding in the ASPSA 2007. Comparisons are made between these findings and the evidence on the governance of adult safeguarding in England. The study was a thematic analysis of Adult Protection Committee (APC) biennial reports on implementation of the 2007 Act to the Scottish Government, associated documentation, and key informant interviews with professionals involved in adult protection leadership and practice. The study identified a complex pattern of arrangements, activities, experiences and challenges across management structures of APCs, the development of policies and procedures, multi-agency working, training, performance assessment and quality management, engagement of service users and carers, and how the 2007 Act operated. Service users and carers were not directly involved in the documentary review or in the key informant interviews. There remains a need to investigate the impacts on practice and service user experience of different forms of governance of adult protection arrangements. This paper identifies outcomes and challenges in respect of multi-agency approaches to governance taken by APCs in Scotland. (RH)

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From : www.emeraldinsight.com/jap.htm

Her treatment at and around the meeting was deplorable: might safeguarding itself constitute abuse?; by David Hewitt.: Emerald, 2013, pp 96-106.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 15, no 2, 2013, pp 96-106.

The objective of this study was to report and analyse a recent case in which the safeguarding procedure adopted by one local authority was criticised by the High Court. It also sought to identify key lessons to be learned. The paper considered the judgment handed down in the case, set out its key points and aimed to place the proceedings and the concerns they revealed in their context. In its conduct of one safeguarding enquiry, West Sussex County Council acted unlawfully, in a manner that breached natural justice and a legitimate expectation to which it had itself given rise. The case raised a number of concerns. It was also consistent with a suspicion that some practitioners, and even some judges, have begun to express that on occasions, the safeguarding process itself might constitute a form of abuse. This is believed to be the first time that such a case has been analysed in such detail, and also the first time it has been placed in the context of those concerns. (JL)

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From : www.emeraldinsight.com/jap.htm

Individual and community attitudes toward financial elder abuse; by Tijana Mihaljcic, Georgie Lowndes.: Taylor and Francis, March/May 2013, pp 183-203.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 25, no 2, March/May 2013, pp 183-203.

Financial elder abuse, also referred to as "financial exploitation", "financial mistreatment", "economic abuse", or "material abuse" has many definitions, all with the underlying theme of illegal or improper use of an older person's assets. This study investigated attitudes towards financial elder abuse by sections of the Australian community using tree focus groups comprising aged care workers, older adults, and younger adults. Participants were provided discussion cues prior to their focus group (i.e., What is financially abusive behaviour? Why does it occur? How can it be prevented?). Two researchers authenticated the transcripts and identified micro- and macro-level themes within and across groups. The study revealed a range of similar, different and individual attitudes expressed across the groups, which could be used to develop a survey for a broader investigation of the role of individual attitudes and sociocultural norms to financial elder abuse. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Inherently risky? Personal budgets for people with dementia and the risks of financial abuse: findings from an interview-based study with adult safeguarding coordinators; by Jill Manthorpe, Kritika Samsi.: Oxford University Press, July 2013, pp 889-903.

British Journal of Social Work, vol 43, no 5, July 2013, pp 889-903.

The shift within publicly funded social care towards personal budgets (PBs) and Direct Payments may present some risks as well as advantages to people with dementia. Following earlier surveys of Adult Safeguarding Coordinators, 15 ASCs were interviewed in 2011. Thematic analysis was used to identify three main consistencies in response. Most participants saw personal budgets as potentially risky, but outlined ways in which these risks could be minimised. They felt that the principles of risk empowerment could be used by practitioners to support people with dementia, carers and care staff and enable greater protection against financial abuse. Principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 were seen as offering some safeguards for when an individual lacks capacity, but not when vulnerable, mildly confused and less vigilant. Alongside a need for social work practitioners to be more alert to signs and risks of financial abuse, safeguarding practitioners urged regular reviews and monitoring that flag up inconsistencies in spending patterns. If not, system neglect may add to individual cases of abuse. (RH)

ISSN: 00453102

From : www.bjsw.oxfordjournals.org

Is psychological vulnerability related to the experience of fraud in older adults?; by Peter A Lichtenberg, Laurie Stickney, Daniel Paulson.: Taylor and Francis, March-April 2013, pp 132-146.

Clinical Gerontologist, vol 36, no 2, March-April 2013, pp 132-146.

Financial exploitation, and particularly thefts and scams, are increasing at an alarming rate. In this study the authors (a) determined the national prevalence of older adults who report having been a victim of fraud, (b) created a population-based model for the prediction of fraud, and (c) examined how fraud is experienced by the most psychologically vulnerable older adults. The older adults studied were 4,400 participants in a Health and Retirement Study substudy, the 2008 Leave Behind Questionnaire. The prevalence of fraud across the previous 5 years was 4.5%. Among measures collected in 2002, age, education and depression were significant predictors of fraud. Financial satisfaction and social needs fulfilment were measured in 2008 and were significantly related to fraud above and beyond the 2002 predictors. Using depression and social needs fulfilment to determine the most psychologically vulnerable older adults, the research found that fraud prevalence was three times higher

(14%) among those with the highest depression and the lowest social needs fulfilment than among the rest of the sample. Clinical gerontologists and other professionals in the field need to be aware of their psychologically vulnerable clients' heightened exposure to financial fraud. (JL)

ISSN: 07317115

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Older women doing home care: exploitation or ideal job?; by Sandra S Butler.: Taylor & Francis, May-June 2013, pp 299-317.

Journal of Gerontological Social Work, vol 56, no 4, May-June 2013, pp 299-317.

The increased need for both personal assistance workers and meaningful employment opportunities for older workers results in growing numbers of older home care aides in the United States. This study examined lifetime financial security and perceived advantages of older age in this field through interviews with 31 older home care aides. Study participants experienced high levels of financial insecurity and perceived older workers as particularly well suited to the home care job. The consequences of this low-wage, low-status work are explored along with implications for social workers to advocate for improved conditions for these workers providing essential care to frail older people. (JL)

ISSN: 01634372

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

The relationship between older people's awareness of the term elder abuse and actual experiences of elder abuse; by Corina Naughton, Jonathan Drennan, Imogen Lyons, Attracta Lafferty.: Cambridge University Press, August 2013, pp 1257-1266.

International Psychogeriatrics, vol 25, no 8, August 2013, pp 1257-1266.

Awareness and experiences of elder abuse have been researched as separate entities. This study examined the relationship between awareness of elder abuse, disclosure of abuse and reporting of abuse among people aged 65 years or older. A national cross-sectional survey of a random sample of 2,012 community-dwelling older people was carried out in Ireland. People described their understanding of the term elder abuse followed by their experiences of mistreatment. Descriptive statistics and logistic regression were used with frequency, percentage, odds ratios (OR), and 95% confidence intervals (CI) presented. The prevalence of elder abuse (including stranger abuse) since 65 years of age was 5.9%. Overall 80% of the population demonstrated some understanding of the term elder abuse. Older people who experienced physical and/or psychological abuse were significantly more likely than older people who had not experienced mistreatment to relate the term elder abuse to their personal experiences. There was no association between experiences of financial abuse or neglect and awareness of the term elder abuse. These findings show that there was a relatively high level of awareness of the term elder abuse. However a substantial proportion of people could not readily associate abusive behaviours within their personal lives with elder abuse. Public information campaigns need to move beyond simple awareness raising to enable people to bridge the gap between a theoretical understanding of elder abuse and recognising inappropriate behaviour in their own circumstances. (JL)

ISSN: 10416102

From : journals.cambridge.org/ipg

When a son steals money from his mother: courtroom perceptions of elder financial exploitation; by Jonathan M Golding, Emily C Hodell, Emily E Dumlap (et al).: Taylor and Francis, March/May 2013, pp 126-148.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 25, no 2, March/May 2013, pp 126-148.

The perception of elder financial exploitation was investigated using 104 community members and 143 undergraduate students in Kentucky. Participants read an exploitation trial summary in which an 85 year old woman accused her son of stealing her money. Primary results indicated that alleged victims described as healthy rendered more guilty verdicts. Those described as having a cognitive deficit pro-victim judgments were higher for women than men; and younger and older community members rendered more guilty verdicts than middle-aged mock jurors. The results are discussed in terms of the factors that affect the perception of exploitation in court. (RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

2012

APS investigation across four types of elder maltreatment; by Shelly L Jackson, Thomas L Hafemeister.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 14, no 2, 2012, pp 82-92.

Little empirical attention has been given to adult protective services (APS) investigations in the United States and the clients involved in those investigations. This study explored aspects of the APS investigation of, and

response to, reported elder maltreatment, the perceptions of older victims and their refusal of services. The study also compared findings by the type of maltreatment involved (financial exploitation, physical abuse, neglect, and hybrid financial exploitation). Data were collected from two sources over a two-year period: in-depth interviews with 71 APS caseworkers and 55 of the corresponding elderly victims who experienced substantiated elder maltreatment; and a statewide database that contained 2,142 substantiated cases of elder abuse. Many aspects of the APS investigation and response differed by the type of maltreatment involved. While older victims were generally cooperative and satisfied with the APS intervention, 38 percent would have preferred APS not to investigate their case. Older clients responded differentially to offers of assistance, depending on the type of abuse involved, with victims of physical abuse most likely to refuse services. Future research will want to understand why older victims refuse services in order to develop appropriate interventions. New approaches may be required for intervening in physical abuse cases, including collaborations between APS and domestic violence advocates and the inclusion of services for perpetrators. This is the first large-scale study to examine older victims' refusal of services, and is further enhanced by the analysis of refusal of services by type of abuse, thereby revealing a group of victims for which changes in intervention strategies may be necessary. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : www.emeraldinsight.com

An educational program to assist clinicians in identifying elder investment fraud and financial exploitation; by Whitney L Mills, Robert E Roush, Jennifer Moye ... (et al.): Routledge, October-December 2012, pp 351-363.

Gerontology & Geriatrics Education, vol 33, no 4, October-December 2012, pp 351-363.

Due to age-related factors and illnesses older adults may become vulnerable to elder investment fraud and financial exploitation (EIFFE). In this article the authors describe the development and preliminary evaluation of an educational programme to raise awareness and assist clinicians in identifying older adults at risk. 127 study participants gave high ratings for the programme, which included a presentation, clinician pocket guide and patient education brochure. 35 respondents returned a completed questionnaire at the six-month follow-up, with 24 of those indicating use of the programme materials in practice and also reporting having identified 25 patients they felt were vulnerable to EIFFE. These findings demonstrate the value of providing education and practical tools to enhance clinic-based screening of this underappreciated but prevalent problem. (JL)

ISSN: 02701960

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Elder abuse and neglect in Ireland: results from a national prevalence survey; by Corina Naughton, Jonathan Drennan, Imogen Lyons ... (et al).

Age and Ageing, vol 41, no 1, January 2012, pp 98-103.

The study aimed to measure the twelve-month prevalence of elder abuse and neglect in community-dwelling people aged 65 years and over in Ireland, and to examine the risk profile of people who experienced mistreatment and that of the perpetrators. Information was collected in face-to-face interviews on abuse types, socioeconomic, health and social support characteristics of the population. Overall the prevalence of elder abuse and neglect was 2.2% in the previous twelve months. The frequency of mistreatment type was financial 1.3%, psychological 1.2%, physical abuse 0.5%, neglect 0.3%, and sexual abuse 0.05%. In the univariate analysis lower income, impaired physical health, mental health and poor social support were associated with a higher risk of mistreatment but only social support and mental health remained independent predictors. Among perpetrators adult children (50%) were most frequently identified. Unemployment (50%) and addiction (20%) were characteristics of this group. (JL)

ISSN: 00020729

From : <http://ageing.oxfordjournals.org/http://www.bgs.org.uk/>

Exploring definitions of financial abuse in elderly Korean immigrants: the contribution of traditional cultural values; by Hee Yun Lee, Sang E Lee, Charissa K Eaton.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 24, no 4, October-December 2012, pp 293-311.

The purpose of this study was to explore the cultural definitions of financial abuse from the perspective of 124 older Korean immigrants and to examine the role of traditional cultural values in their definitions by using a mixed methods approach. The qualitative analysis generated four themes relevant to definition of financial abuse. A binary logistic regression indicated that those with stronger cultural adherence to traditional values had higher odds of providing culture-based definitions of financial abuse. Education is needed for health professionals, social service providers and adult protective workers to increase their understanding of culture-specific experiences of financial abuse among ethnic minority older people. (JL)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Factors associated with suicidal thoughts in a large community of older adults; by Osvaldo P Almeida, Brian Draper, John Snowdon ... (et al): Royal College of Psychiatrists, December 2012, pp 466-472.

British Journal of Psychiatry, vol 201, no 6, December 2012, pp 466-472.

Thoughts about death and self-harm in old age have been commonly associated with the presence of depression, but other risk factors may also be important. The aim of the present study was to determine the independent association between suicidal ideation in later life and demographic, lifestyle, socioeconomic, psychiatric and medical factors. A cross-sectional study was conducted of a community-derived sample of 21,290 adults aged 60-101 years enrolled from Australian primary care practices. The authors considered that participants endorsing any of the four items of the Depressive Symptom Inventory - Suicidality Subscale were experiencing suicidal thoughts. They used standard procedures to collect demographic, lifestyle, psychosocial and clinical data. Anxiety and depressive symptoms were assessed with the Hospital Anxiety and Depression Scale. Study findings showed that over a two-week period, the prevalence of suicidal ideation was 4.8%. Male gender, higher education, current smoking, living alone, poor social support, no religious practice, financial strain, childhood physical abuse, history of suicide in the family, past depression, current anxiety, depression or comorbid anxiety and depression, past suicide attempt, pain, poor self-perceived health and current use of antidepressants were independently associated with suicidal ideation. Poor social support was associated with a population attributable fraction of 38.0%, followed by history of depression (23.6%), concurrent anxiety and depression (19.7%), prevalent anxiety (15.1%), pain (13.7%) and no religious practice (11.4%). These findings show that prevalent and past mood disorders seem to be valid targets for indicated interventions designed to reduce suicidal thoughts and behaviour. However the data also indicate that social disconnectedness and stress account for a larger proportion of cases than mood disorders. Should these associations prove to be causal, then interventions that succeed in addressing these issues would contribute the most to reducing suicidal ideation and, possibly, suicidal behaviour in later life. (JL)

ISSN: 00071250

From : www.rcpsych.ac.uk

Financial exploitation of older persons in adult care settings: comparisons to physical abuse and the justice system's response; by Brian K Payne, Sheryl M Strasser.: Taylor and Francis, July/September 2012, pp 231-250.

Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect, vol 24, no 3, July/September 2012, pp 231-250.

The characteristics of elder financial exploitation cases perpetrated against older people receiving long term care are investigated. This study also distinguishes between how elder financial exploitation cases by the criminal justice system and those of elder physical abuse are processed in the US. A sample of 242 elder financial abuse cases and 314 elder physical abuse cases handled by Medicaid Fraud Control Units were selected and analysed. The results show that while the characteristics of elder financial abuse are similar in terms of the gender of the offender and victim, victims tend to be older, and offenders tend to come from a broader range of occupations. Four aspects of elder financial exploitation make it particularly troublesome: multiple victims, health issues, offence duration, and lack of witnesses. Comparison of the criminal penalties applied shows that the justice system views financial offences equally serious to, if not more serious than, physical abuse cases. Implications for policy, practice and research are provided. (RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Inside the Court of Protection; by Alison Brammer.: Emerald, 2012, pp 297-301.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 14, no 6, 2012, pp 297-301.

This paper aims to summarise the work of the Court of Protection, which was established under the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The Court in its current form is a significant decision-making body in the UK within adult safeguarding practice concerning adults whose decision-making capacity is impaired. The paper outlines the history and range of applications within the jurisdiction of the Court, drawing from the Mental Capacity Act and the Code of Practice. Reference is made to annual reports of the work of the court which profile its workload. Finally there is a review of a line of case law dealing with the question of media attendance and reporting of cases before the court. (JL)

ISSN: 14668203

From : www.emeraldinsight.com/jap.htm

Older people also suffer because of the crisis; by AGE Platform Europe. Brussels: AGE Platform Europe, 2012, 26 pp.

Very many older Europeans have been experiencing the impact of the financial and economic crisis since 2008, and are as at risk of poverty and social exclusion as other populations or age groups. This publication builds on the work carried out by AGE Platform Europe and its member organisations in the field of social inclusion and social protection since the beginning of the financial crisis in 2008. It also presents recommendations from the

seminar AGE organised with the Committee of the Regions on the impact of the crisis on older people on 19 June 2012 in Brussels. It considers the need to understand the impact of the crisis on older people on issues such as budget cuts; difficulties in accessing and affording health services and long-term care; shortage of adequate housing; energy poverty; and suicide. It looks at ways of preventing poverty and promoting social inclusion such as: guaranteeing adequate income in old age; combating age discrimination in employment and the growing poverty risk among older workers; preventing social isolation; tackling elder abuse; and enhancing rights of older Roma. (RH)

From : <http://www.age-platform.eu/images/stories/EN/olderpeoplealsosufferbcofthecrisis-en.pdf>

Responding to the financial abuse of people with dementia: a qualitative study of safeguarding experiences in England; by Jill Manthorpe, Kritika Samsi, Joan Rapaport.

International Psychogeriatrics, vol 24, no 9, September 2012, pp 1454-1464.

The risks of financial exploitation and abuse of people with dementia remain under-researched; and Little is known of the views of those responsible for local adult safeguarding systems about prevention and redress. The authors explore current repertoires of responses of such persons; and consider barriers and facilitators to minimising risks of financial abuse for people with dementia. 15 qualitative interviews were undertaken with a purposively sampled group of Adult Safeguarding Co-ordinators in England in 2011. Framework analysis delineated themes in the transcripts; these were included in an iteratively developed coding framework. Five themes were explored: incidence of financial abuse; impact of dementia on safeguarding responses; warning signs of financial abuse, including neglect, unpaid bills, limited money for provisions; encouraging preventive measures such as direct debit to pay for bills, advance care plans, appointing Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA); and barriers and facilitators in safeguarding, including the practice of financial agencies, cultural barriers, other systemic failures and facilitators. Not all systems of financial proxies are viewed as optimally effective, but provisions of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 were welcomed and seen as workable. Healthcare professionals may need to be more alert to the signs and risks of financial abuse in patients with dementia both at early and later stages. Engaging with safeguarding practitioners may facilitate prevention of abuse and effective response to those with substantial assets, but the monitoring of people with dementia needs to be sustained. In addition, professionals need to be alert to new risks from electronic crime. Researchers should consider including financial abuse in studies of elder abuse and neglect. (RH)

ISSN: 10416102

From : www.journals.cambridge.org/ipg

When self-directed support meets adult support and protection: findings from the evaluation of the SDS test sites in Scotland; by Susan Hunter, Jill Manthorpe, Julie Ridley (et al).

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 14, no 4, 2012, pp 206-215.

Promoting self-directed support (SDS) is part of the Scottish Government's policy programme to increase people's choice and control over their community care and support arrangements. Adult support and protection is also a high profile policy priority for the Scottish Government. This paper explores the connections between SDS and adult support and protection. The study was part of the national evaluation of the SDS test sites commissioned by the Scottish Government. Interviews were conducted at two time points a year apart with adult protection leads in the 3 test sites. The interview data are set in the context of Scottish developments in adult support and protection. The findings suggest that SDS and adult protection had not been joined up initially. In the test sites, those responsible for adult safeguarding had not been engaged with the changes relating to the implementation of SDS. They were unclear about the new systems and were concerned about the implications of reduced monitoring of risks. Shared training between those implementing SDS and those carrying out adult protection work was viewed as a way of bridging these different areas of practice through enhancing mutual understanding and communication. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : www.emeraldinsight.com

2011

Adult safeguarding: early messages from peer reviews; by Richard Humphries.

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 13, no 2, 2011, pp 89-99.

This report summarises the main conclusions from the pilot reviews and key learning points to assist the improvement of safeguarding policy and practice. Local Government Improvement and Development carried out a pilot programme of peer reviews of adult safeguarding arrangements in four English local authorities in 2009-2010. The pilot programme sought to customise, test and adapt this established peer review methodology to adult safeguarding. Key messages from these peer reviews include: outcomes and experience of people who use services; leadership, strategy and commissioning; service delivery, effective practice and performance and

resource management; and working together. Councils may need to revisit how they develop their safeguarding arrangements in the light of major policy, financial and demographic shifts over the next few years. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : www.emeraldinsight.com

Assessment: financial crime against vulnerable adults; by Social Care Institute for Excellence - SCIE; City of London Police; National Fraud Intelligence Bureau.: Social Care Institute for Excellence - SCIE, November 2011, 72 pp (Adults' services SCIE report 49).

The purpose of the assessment was to highlight some of the current and potential future threats to vulnerable adults in relation to economic crime. The report covers the wide spectrum of financial abuse against vulnerable adults by family members, care workers and other unscrupulous individuals. The assessment sought to highlight the scale of the problem, to identify gaps in financial safeguarding and to ascertain the work required to improve safeguarding practice. (JL)

From : Download report:

http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report49.asp?dm_i=4O5,MYUB,3XH4RV,1UX5V,1#

Court of Protection law reports: consolidated volume (2008-2011): [2011] COPLR Con Vol; by Eason Rajah, Victoria Butler-Cole, Alexander Ruck-Keene (eds). Bristol: Jordans, 2011, 1241 pp.

The Mental Health Act 2005 which came into effect on 1 October 2007 introduced fundamental changes in the law for the protection of persons lacking mental capacity. This preliminary volume brings together judgments on major cases on Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DOLS) and other relevant subjects health in the new statutory Court of Protection. The full text of every case published in Court of Protection Law Reports from 2008 to date is available on the Jordan Publishing website (www.jordanpublishing.co.uk). The editor-in-chief is the Hon Mr Justice Baker. (RH)

Price: £95.00

From : Jordan Publishing Ltd., 21 St Thomas Street, Bristol BS1 6JS. Website: www.jordanpublishing.co.uk

Email: coplr@jordanpublishing.co.uk

Decision making in detecting and preventing financial abuse of older adults: a study of managers and professionals in health, social care, and banking; by Mary Gilhooly, Deborah Cairns, Miranda Davies, Libby Notley, New Dynamics of Ageing Programme - NDA; Brunel Institute for Ageing Studies. Sheffield: New Dynamics of Ageing - NDA, 2011, 8 pp (NDA Findings 7).

With substantial and increasing numbers of frail and cognitively impaired older people living in the community, there are growing challenges associated with money handling. Financial abuse of people with dementia or declining cognitive and physical functioning is of growing concern. It is equally important to protect professionals and carers from unfair allegations of financial abuse as it is to safeguard the assets of vulnerable older people. These findings report on a project which aimed to examine real world judgment and decision-making in relation to professional detection of elder financial abuse. The focus was on professionals in health, social care, and banking. Study participants took part in interviews, as well as judging case scenarios. Policy documents were analysed to explore how suspected abuse was defined and managed within local authority, NHS and banking procedures. (RH)

From : NDA Research Programme, Department of Sociological Studies, University of Sheffield, Elmfield, Northumberland Road, Sheffield S10 2TU. <http://www.newdynamics.group.shef.ac.uk>

Elder abuse: extends beyond health and social care to the financial and legal sectors; by Martin Mulroy, Desmond O'Neill.

British Medical Journal, vol 343, no 7827, 15 October 2011, pp 756-757.

The European Regional Office of the World Health Organization (WHO) recently published 'European report on preventing elder maltreatment'. In the opinion of the authors of this article, the report has a disproportionate focus on physical abuse. Insufficient consideration is given to financial abuse, the second most common form of elder abuse, since, in the light of the current economic recession, the number of older Europeans affected (estimated at 6 million) is certain to increase. What is required are age-friendly banks and other financial institutions, and legislation akin to the United States' Elder Justice Act 2010. Few European countries have a national policy on elder abuse. Collaboration of the health and social care sectors on this matter has never been more urgent. (RH)

ISSN: 09598138

From : www.bmj.comBMJ2011;343;d6027

Enabling risk and ensuring safety: self-directed support and personal budgets; by Sarah Carr.

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 13, issue 3, 2011, pp 122-136.

This paper summarises key findings from a Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) report on risk enablement and safeguarding in the context of self-directed support and personal budgets. It explores how the personalisation agenda and adult safeguarding can work together, and addresses frontline concerns relating to empowerment and duty of care. Research findings and emerging policy, principles and practice are used to look at how self-directed support and personal budgets can be used to enable people to take positive risks whilst staying safe. The paper suggests that person-centred working in adult safeguarding, along with self-directed support planning and outcome review, can support the individual to identify the risks they want to take and those they want to avoid in order to stay safe. Defensive risk management strategies or risk-averse frontline practice may result in individuals not being adequately supported to make choices and take control and, therefore, being put at risk. Practitioners need to be supported by local authorities to incorporate safeguarding and risk enablement in their relationship-based, person-centred working. The paper concludes by listing a number of key messages and recommendations arising from the report. (JL)

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From : <http://pierprofessional.metapress.com/content/121398/>

Perpetrators of abuse against older women: a multi-national study in Europe; by Liesbeth De Donder, Gert Lang, Minna-Liisa Luoma (et al).

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 13, no 6, 2011, pp 302-314.

This article provides results from the prevalence study of Abuse and Violence against Older Women in Europe (AWOW). The study involved scientific partners from five European Union (EU) countries: Austria, Finland, Belgium, Lithuania and Portugal. In these countries, the same study was conducted during 2010. In total, 2,800 older women living in the community were interviewed. The results indicate that 28% of older women across all countries have experienced some sort of violence and abuse, in the last 12 months, by someone who is close to them. The results offer specific figures for the prevalence of different types of abuse, i.e. physical, psychological, sexual and financial abuse, violation of personal rights, and neglect. Furthermore, additional insights about the main perpetrators of abuse for different groups of older women are offered. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : <http://pierprofessional.metapress.com/content/121398/>

The problem of violence toward the elderly; by Edward V Karyukhin.: International Institute on Ageing (United Nations - Malta), February 2011, pp 22-26.

BOLD, vol 21, no 2, February 2011, pp 22-26.

Explores different definitions of violence towards older people in the Russian context, examines the UN's approach to the problem of violence and looks at types of abuse and violence towards older people recorded in the Russian mass media. These include physical violence including murder, financial exploitation, emotional trauma and neglect. The article concludes with some brief extracts from the results of a poll of older Muscovites who were asked what they wanted from social services. Among the problems they faced were poor access to public transport, inadequate protection from criminals and disrespectful attitudes to old age. (JL)

ISSN: 10165177

From : <http://www.inia.org.mt/publications.html>

Safeguarding adults at risk from harm: a legal guide for practitioners; by Michael Mandelstam, Social Care Institute for Excellence - SCIE.: Social Care Institute for Excellence - SCIE, December 2011, 279 pp (Adults' services SCIE report 50).

The guide outlines the legal basis for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults at risk of harm in England. A series of case studies (A) are included at the beginning of the guide, while the main part of the guide (B) sets out the legal framework. Part 1 outlines the government's No secrets guidance and three key concepts of protection, justice and empowerment. Part 2 outlines a number of key human rights including the right to life, the right not to be subjected to inhuman or degrading treatment, the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of liberty and the right to respect for private and family life. The section also covers legal issues around information sharing and disclosure, and whistleblowing. Part 3 covers interventions around mental capacity, with particular reference to the Mental Capacity Act 2005, the Mental Health Act 1983 and other legislation. Part 4 explains the roles of key service providers in safeguarding vulnerable adults, including housing providers, the police, Crown Prosecution Service and coroners. Part 5 looks at the regulation of social and health care providers under the Health and Social Care Act 2008. Part 6 covers financial and property abuse including fraud. Part 7 covers an array of other offences including psychological harm, violence against the person and sexual abuse. A concluding section looks at protective orders, injunctions and other interventions, eg. protection from harassment, Non-Molestation Orders, Occupation Orders and Forced Marriage Protection Orders. (JL)

From : Download report:

http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report50.asp?dm_i=4O5,MYUB,3XH4RV,1UX5V,1

A study of adult protection referrals in two local authorities: an overview of findings for managers and practitioners; by Paul Cambridge, Jim Mansell, Julie Beadle-Brown (et al).

Journal of Adult Protection, vol 13, no 5, 2011, pp 238-250.

Key findings are presented from a study of adult protection referrals collected by two English local authorities from 1998 until 2005. Referrals were analysed for patterns relating to risk with client level data supplemented by information from local authority databases and from the Care Quality Commission (CQC). The analysis also examined associations between adult protection processes and outcomes, and looked at how adult protection monitoring data could be improved to better inform safeguarding management and practices at local and national levels. Sexual abuse was most frequently reported for people with intellectual disabilities who were also at higher risk of abuse when living out of area. Older people were most at risk of financial abuse in community settings and of neglect in residential care. The study identifies patterns of risk of abuse of older people and those with intellectual disabilities, and informs preventative interventions. It also indicates priorities for improving the quality and compatibility of adult protection monitoring data. (RH)

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From : www.emeraldinsight.com

2010

Court of Protection practice 2010; by Gordon Ashton (ed and contributor with others). 2nd ed Bristol: Jordans, 2010, 1681 pp (+ CDROM).

'Court of Protection practice' brings together statutory materials and key forms, and case law supporting practice and procedures in the Court of Protection. It is therefore aimed at those involved with decision making and the rights of those lacking mental capacity, following implementation of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. The book deals with: the mental capacity jurisdiction; lasting powers of attorney; powers of the Court; welfare and healthcare, advance decisions and research; deprivation of liberty safeguards; Court practice and procedure; the Public Guardian and supporting services; and incapacity law in Scotland. The law is stated as at 1 February 2009, but it is likely that the law governing Mental Capacity will continue to develop. It is therefore the author's (District Judge Ashton) intention to update on a regular basis this volume. (KJ/RH)

Price: £185.00

From : Jordan Publishing Ltd., 21 St Thomas Street, Bristol BS1 6JS. Website: www.jordanpublishing.co.uk

Local action for later life: improving public services for ageing communities; by Age UK. London: Age UK, 2010, 17 pp.

The Coalition government has promised "radical devolution of power and greater financial autonomy to local government and community groups". This Age UK policy publication sets out five priority areas for local authorities, health bodies, business leaders and other local partners. First, equal respect: local public sector bodies must consider age equality, human rights, mental capacity and elder abuse. Second, support to be independent: this includes funding, personalisation and carers. Third, having enough money: dealing with pensioner poverty, fuel poverty, and help with take-up of benefits and entitlements as well as managing money. Fourth, feeling well: tackling prevention and health promotion, dignity, and mental health. Lastly, enabling older people to participate in their local communities by provision of age-friendly services, transport and housing. (RH)

From : Age UK, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ.

<http://policy.helptheaged.org.uk/NR/rdonlyres/8726C749-E01E-47CB-9CC5-B0F3154574E4/0/AgeUKLocalActionforLaterLife.pdf>

Practical approaches to safeguarding and personalisation; by Bernadette Simpson, Department of Health - DH. London: Department of Health, 16 November 2010, 35 pp (Gateway ref: 14847).

Personalisation is about enabling people to lead the lives that they choose and achieve the outcomes they want in ways that best suit them. It is important in this process to consider risks, and keeping people safe from harm. Safeguarding is a range of activity aimed at upholding an adult's fundamental right to be safe. Being or feeling unsafe undermines our relationships and self-belief, our ability to participate freely in communities and to contribute to society. Safeguarding is of particular importance to people who, because of their situation or circumstances, are unable to keep themselves safe. This briefing paper sets out how personalisation of support and more effective safeguarding can be mutually supportive. It shows how self-directed support can help to prevent or reduce the risk of harm and abuse. It is not, primarily, about how councils and partner organisations should respond to abuse. (RH)

From :

http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_121671.pdf Contact: Abigail Merrett, Social Care Policy Division, Room 116, 133-155 Waterloo Road, London SE1 8UG.

Strategies to address financial abuse; by Shawna Reeves, Julia Wysong.: Routledge, 2010, pp 328-334.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 22, nos 3/4, 2010, pp 328-334.

Financial abuse is a growing problem for older adults. This article outlines four major strategies for addressing elder financial abuse: (a) education and outreach, (b) general detection and universal screening, (c) legal interventions, and (d) multidisciplinary teams. Future efforts should be devoted to understanding the efficiency and effectiveness of these various strategies in order to keep older adults from becoming victims of financial abuse and to intervene as soon as possible once financial abuse has been identified. (KJ)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Urgent applications in the Court of Protection; by Nazreen Pearce, Sue Jackson. Bristol: Jordans, 2010, 435 pp.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 has changed the role and work of the Court of Protection. The Court's jurisdiction now extends not only to financial and property matters, but also to health and welfare issues and disputes relating to lasting powers of attorney. This book is for professionals working with incapacitated adults, and covers all relevant topics from the perspective of the Court of Protection user faced with making an urgent application. For each topic, there is a law and practice section, procedural guide, precedents and draft orders. These topics are covered in three parts: general principles; personal welfare and deprivation of liberty; and property and affairs. (RH)

Price: £75.00

From : Jordan Publishing Ltd., 21 St Thomas Street, Bristol BS1 6JS. www.jordanpublishing.co.uk

2009

Assessing capacity within a context of abuse or neglect; by Deborah O'Connor, Margaret Isabel Hall, Martha Donnelly.: The Haworth Press, Inc., 2009, pp 156-169.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 21, no 2, 2009, pp 156-169.

In 2000, with the implementation of Part III of the Adult Guardianship Act: Support and Assistance for Abused and Neglected Adults, British Columbia (Canada) formally recognized the need to examine issues of decisional capacity of older adults within a context of abuse or neglect. Interestingly, however, although the test of capacity was clearly laid out under this piece of legislation, the potential influence that living in a situation of abuse or neglect may have on how the person makes decisions is not explicitly addressed. Similarly, this is a missing link throughout the literature discussing decisional capacity in older adults. This gap exists despite the fact that determining the "protection" needs of someone who is being abused and/or neglected often hinges directly on that person's decisional capacity. The purpose of this article is to examine the unique aspects associated with assessing and determining capacity for older adults who are living in a situation of abuse or neglect. The specific objectives are to: examine how living in a situation of abuse or neglect may influence the determination of capacity and explore the implications of conducting an assessment within a potentially abusive context. The legal notion of undue influence and the psychological concept of relational connection are introduced as potentially important for considering decision making within this context. (KJ/RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Banned from working in social care: a secondary analysis of staff characteristics and reasons for their referrals to the POVA list in England and Wales; by Shereen Hussein, Martin Stevens, Jill Manthorpe (et al).

Health and Social Care in the Community, vol 17, no 5, September 2009, pp 423-433.

Since July 2004, employers of social care staff working with vulnerable adults in England and Wales have been legally required to refer workers or volunteers dismissed for misconduct because they have harmed vulnerable adults or placed them at risk of harm to the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) list. The POVA list is unique to England and Wales, and is a powerful tool of quality assurance for the care sector and for the safeguarding of vulnerable adults. This article reports on part of a multi-method study including quantitative and qualitative elements to produce a rounded picture of the factors involved in decisions to place staff members on the POVA list. Based on secondary data analysis of all records of POVA referrals from August 2004 to November 2006 (5294 records) as well as a detailed sample of 298 referrals, this article focuses on the prevalence of different types of alleged harm and their association with various staff, employer and service-users' characteristics. The most common form of alleged abuse was physical abuse (33%), while the least was

sexual abuse (6%). Some of the other key findings are the over-representation of men referred (31% compared to an average of 15% in the workforce) and significantly different types of abuse in care home and domiciliary settings, where financial abuse was less likely in care homes [odds ratio (OR) 0.17; $P < 0.001$], while physical abuse more likely in the same setting (OR 3.60; $P < 0.001$). (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 09660410

From : <http://www.blackwellpublishing.com/hsc>

Daylight robbery; by Stuart Lister.

Unite, issue 368, November 2009, pp 12-13.

Distraction burglars use a range of deceptions designed to trick occupants into inviting them into their homes. In England and Wales, the police record between 12,000 and 16,000 such offences annually, but due to under-reporting the figure could be as high as 130,000. Older people appear to be targeted, because offenders regard them as "easy prey". Two crime case studies illustrate the importance of being on guard to prevent such occurrences. To avoid becoming a victim, the author advises a lock-stop-chain-check routine. Lock - always keep your front door shut and secured. Stop - always pause before opening the door to collect your thoughts. Chain - ensure the door chain is engaged before you open the door. Check - ask strangers for proof of identity. If you are still uncertain, make them wait on the doorstep while you telephone the company, utility or agency they claim to work for. (RH)

Price: membership

From : National Federation of Royal Mail & BT Pensioners, Unit 6, Imperial Court, Laporte Way, Luton LU4 8FE. E-mail: info@pensionersonline.com Website: www.pensionersonline.com

Elder abuse in Wales; by Age Concern Cymru and Help the Aged in Wales.

EnvisAGE, no 8, Summer 2009, 22 pp (whole issue).

This edition of Envisage focuses on elder abuse in Wales. An introduction and five articles are on aspects of abuse including financial abuse; the right to be treated with dignity and respect; and the work of the Crown Prosecution Service and crimes against older people. The final article, by Andrew Dunning and Kath Parson, looks at lessons and findings from the Benchmarking Advocacy and Abuse Project 2008-09. In English and Welsh. (KJ/RH)

From : EnvisAGE, Age Concern Cymru, Ty John Pathy, 13/14 Neptune Court, Vanguard Way, Cardiff, CF24 5PJ. <http://www.accymru.org.uk>

Good practice in the law and safeguarding adults: criminal justice and adult protection; by Jacki Pritchard (ed). London: Jessica Kingsley, 2009, 265 pp (Good practice in health, social care and criminal justice).

Contributors to this book explain the legislation used in adult protection work, covering criminal and civil law. Issues covered include police investigations, confidentiality and information sharing, capacity, financial abuse, advocacy and witness support. The roles of an independent mental capacity advocate (IMCA), the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), the police, local authority lawyers, and a co-ordinator for the protection of vulnerable adults in their dealings with adult protection law are covered. The book is illustrated throughout with case studies and good practice points. (RH)

Price: £19.99

From : Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 116 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JB. Website: www.jkp.com

Is elder abuse and neglect a social phenomenon?: data from the First National Prevalence Survey in Israel; by Ariela Lowenstein, Zvi Eisikovits, Tova Band-Winterstein (et al).

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 21, no 3, 2009, pp 253-277.

This article discusses findings from the First National Survey on Elder Abuse and Neglect in Israel, conducted during 2004-2005 under the sponsorship of the Association for Planning and Development of Services for the Aged in Israel (ESHTEL) and the National Insurance Institute. The goals were to examine the prevalence and severity of various forms of abuse and neglect from the victims' perspective, to examine correlates and predictors, and to develop profiles of elders at risk. Data were collected through personal interviews from a national representative sample of community urban dwellers age 65 and older, using cluster sampling techniques and sampling proportionately both Arab and Jewish elders. The sample was composed of 392 males and 650 females, 89% were Jews and 11% were non-Jews. The instrument included sociodemographic data, health and activities of daily living (ADL), a measure of safety, and a battery to examine seven types of abuse (physical, emotional, verbal, limitation of freedom, financial exploitation, sexual, and neglect). Findings indicate that 18.4% of the respondents were exposed to at least one type of abuse during the 12 months preceding the interview, the highest form being verbal abuse followed by financial exploitation. The rates were quite similar between Jews and Arabs. Women were more exposed to physical violence and Arab women were the most vulnerable. Physical, emotional, verbal, limitation of freedom, and sexual abuse occurred mostly among

partners. The rates of physical, sexual, and limitation of freedom abuse, however, were relatively low. Financial exploitation was mostly inflicted by adult children. Partners as perpetrators had more chronic health problems and physical and mental disabilities. Children as perpetrators were unemployed, had various mental health problems, and were substance abusers, often in a process of separation or divorce and tended to live with the victims. Neglect in answering primary needs was found among 20% of the sample, regarding the 3 months preceding the interview. This high rate might be related to elders tending to avoid seeking help or sharing their needs with their families. When victims sought help it was mostly from medical and health services. The findings thus corroborate that elder abuse and neglect is a social problem in Israeli society and has to be addressed in policy discourse and service developments. (KJ/RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Mistreatment of older people in the United Kingdom: findings from the first national prevalence study; by Simon Biggs, Jill Manthorpe, Anthea Tinker (ed): The Haworth Press, Inc., 2009, pp 1-14.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 21, no 1, 2009, pp 1-14.

There have been few national studies of the prevalence of elder mistreatment (abuse and neglect) in private households. This article provides an overview of the UK National Prevalence Study of Elder Mistreatment that took place in 2006. It addressed 2111 respondents in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland who answered a face-to-face survey questionnaire. The achieved sample was weighted to be representative of the UK older population. Of respondents, 2.6% reported mistreatment by family members, close friends, or care workers. The predominant type of reported mistreatment was neglect (1.1%) followed by financial abuse (0.6%), with 0.4% of respondents reporting psychological abuse. Women were significantly more likely to have experienced mistreatment than men, but there were gender differences according to type of abuse and perpetrator characteristics. Divergent patterns were found for neglect, financial and interpersonal abuse. Further analysis of the data indicated that the likelihood of mistreatment varied with socioeconomic, position and health status. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Realising the safeguarding potential of the Mental Capacity Act 2005: early reports from adult safeguarding staff; by Jill Manthorpe, Joan Rapaport, Jess Harris (et al).

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 11, no 2, May 2009, pp 13-24.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 was implemented in England and Wales in 2007. This article reports the findings of interviews with 15 adult safeguarding co-ordinators in the London area about the operation of the Act and its impact upon early reports from adult safeguarding work, particularly in relation to people with dementia. The interviews covered participants' own training and understanding of the Act, the confidence in practice and capacity to be local sources of expertise about the Act, and their perceptions of whether its existence is known among the public. The article concludes that the adult safeguarding co-ordinators are mostly well-informed but would welcome specific updating, especially around the new offences introduced by the Act. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

Safeguarding and system change: early perceptions of the implications for adult protection services of the English individual budgets pilots: a qualitative study; by Jill Manthorpe, Martin Stevens, Joan Rapaport (et al).

British Journal of Social Work, vol 39, no 8, December 2009, pp 1465-1480.

Cash for care or consumer-directed services are increasing in scope and size in Europe and North America. The English Department of Health (DH) initiated a pilot form of personalised support for adults (Individual Budgets) in 13 local authorities that aimed to extend opportunities for users of social care services to determine their own priorities and preferences in the expectation that this will enhance their well-being. This article reports on and discusses interviews undertaken with adult protection leads in the 13 Individual Budgets sites about the linkages to their work, their perceptions of the launch of the pilots, and the policy's fit with safeguarding and risk agendas. The interviews were undertaken as part of the national evaluation of the pilots, which aims to evaluate outcomes and identify the contexts and mechanisms of those outcomes. Findings of this part of the study were that the adult protection leads were not central to the early implementation of Individual Budgets (IBs), and that some of their concerns about the risk of financial abuse were grounded in the extent of this problem among current service users. The implications of their perceptions for the roll out of Individual Budgets are debated in this article with a focus on risk and the policy congruence between potentially competing agendas of choice and control and of protection and harm reduction. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 00453102

From : <http://bjsw.oxfordjournals.org>

Safeguarding vulnerable adults and the law; by Michael Mandelstam. London: Jessica Kingsley, 2009, 320 pp. The protection of vulnerable adults is a fast emerging area of work for local authorities, the National Health Service (NHS) and other agencies, both statutory and independent. This book sets the legal framework, for which the relevant law and guidance is extensive. It includes: the Department of Health (DH) 'No Secrets' guidance; the regulation of health and social care providers; the barring of care workers; human rights; mental capacity; the equitable remedy of undue influence; and criminal law such as theft, fraud, sexual offences, assault, and wilful neglect or ill-treatment. The focus is on vulnerable adults harmed by active abuse, neglect or omission, and financial abuse. Two final sections consider the disclosure of personal information and confidentiality, and the procedural aspects of adult protection. Case examples illustrate the sorts of harm which vulnerable adults may suffer. (RH)

Price: £19.99

From : Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 116 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JB. Website: www.jkp.com

Social work with older immigrants and their families; by M Joanna Mellor (ed.): Routledge, 2009, pp 443-564 (whole issue).

Journal of Gerontological Social Work, vol 52, issue 5, 2009, pp 443-564 (whole issue).

A recurring theme in the seven articles in this issue of Journal of Gerontological Social Work is the need to recognise and understand the beliefs, values and customs brought by immigrants from their home countries. In the United States, the Council on Social Work Education and the National Association of Social Workers both promote cultural competencies for those working with older immigrants. Among circumstances examined are: the role of ethnic enclaves and their resources in amelioration of depression among Koreans in Arizona; coping strategies of Hispanics in New York City; and financial abuse of older Korean immigrants. Other themes are: experiences of ageing among immigrants from India; Chinese Americans' religious, spiritual and other adaptive coping strategies; and intergenerational support of Chinese rural elders with migrant children. A concluding article gives an overview of US policies and legislation relating to older immigrants, and avenues and barriers regarding rights and access to services. (RH)

ISSN: 01634372

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Speaking up to safeguard: lessons and findings from the Benchmarking Advocacy and Abuse Project, 2008-09; by Andrew Dunning, Older People's Advocacy Alliance (OPAAL) UK. Stoke-on-Trent: Older People's Advocacy Alliance (OPAAL) UK, May 2009, 49 pp.

The Older People's Advocacy Alliance (OPAAL) describes advocacy as "a one to one relationship between a trained, independent advocate and an older person who needs support in order to secure or exercise their rights, choices and interests". Action on Elder Abuse (AEA) defines abuse as "a single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person". The Benchmarking Advocacy and Abuse Project has adopted these definitions for its work. This report outlines the prevalence of abuse as a social problem; and the need for independent advocacy as a means of empowerment, prevention and protection. It discusses the benchmarking approach, and describes some participating benchmarking advocacy schemes and the methods used. (The website www.benchmarking.gov.uk is suggested for examples of use of benchmarking by public service organisations). Project findings are discussed in terms of: the demographics of advocacy partners (service users); examples of the use of advocacy scheme casework in dealing with financial abuse, psychological abuse, neglect, physical abuse and sexual abuse; and the goals of advocacy intervention. Recommendations are made for further projects that "advocate for advocacy" and safeguarding older people in the post 'No secrets' personalised services era. Also available is a 4-page executive summary outlining the Project's main findings. (RH)

From : Download from: <http://www.opaal.org.uk> Older People's Advocacy Alliance (OPAAL) UK, Beth Johnson Foundation, Parkfield House, 64 Princes Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 7JL. E-mail: kathryn.parson@btinternet.com

Staff background checks: safeguarding vulnerable adults; by Debra Shipman, Jack Hooten.

Nursing Older People, vol 21, no 4, May 2009, pp 23-26.

It is compulsory for an applicant seeking employment in a healthcare organisation in the United States to undergo a series of background checks, which are carried out by the employer. These checks are made to protect the safety and well-being of residents in nursing homes or patients in healthcare organisations. Residents of nursing homes are soft targets for criminals and patients undergoing medical procedures can be vulnerable to abuse. The deviant behaviour of employees can also be a financial disaster for organisations, and ruin their

reputation. This article discusses safeguards that an organisation in the US can put in place to protect its interests and help keep patients or residents safe and preserve their integrity. Although care systems are different in the UK, concerns about the potential abuse of vulnerable adults are similar. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 14720795

From : <http://www.nursingolderpeople.co.uk>

Untold crimes; by Azrini Wahidin.

Unite, issue 368, November 2009, pp 6-7.

Up to 300,000 older people a year could be victims of abuse or neglect, or of bogus traders or street crime, according to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). It is thought that only 6% of such offences are ever reported. Most victims suffer in silence, too afraid or embarrassed to call the authorities. This article notes that older people are particularly likely to experience physical and psychological ill effects from crime. Three main categories of crimes against older people are identified. First, criminal abuse or neglect where there is a relationship and an expectation of trust. Next, theft, muggings, distraction burglary, robbery or rip-offs by rogue traders. Lastly, assault, harassment and anti-social behaviour caused by the perpetrators' hostility towards older people. To minimise risk, effective engagement with care and service providers is suggested. (RH)

Price: membership

From : National Federation of Royal Mail & BT Pensioners, Unit 6, Imperial Court, Laporte Way, Luton LU4 8FE. E-mail: info@pensionersonline.com Website: www.pensionersonline.com

2008

Abuse by marriage: the exploitation of mentally ill older people; by Carmelle Peisah, Henry Brodaty, Marie Bridger (Barrister-at-law).

International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, vol 23, no 9, September 2008, pp 883-888.

Older people with impaired judgement and inability to appraise others due to mental illness may be persuaded to execute legal documents such as marriage certificates. The authors (including a barrister at law) aim to raise awareness of this, by outlining key legal cases from common law countries and by providing guidelines for health care professionals who encounter this issue in practice. They present two cases. The first involved an 87 year old widower who married his carer - 50 years is junior - in a marriage ceremony while hypnotic. The second case involved an 82 year old widow with moderate dementia who married her boarder; the marriage subsequently being found void in the Family Court of Australia on the basis that her consent was not real because she was incapable of understanding the nature and effect of the marriage ceremony. Abuse by marriage may be of a psychological, sexual, social or financial nature. Health care professionals may have a role in the identification and management of this kind of abuse. There are legal means to deal with the problem ranging from guardianship and financial management, to family law court applications to seek a decree of nullity or invalidity of the marriage. (RH)

ISSN: 08856230

From : <http://www.interscience.wiley.com>

Can you stop the person you care for from being scammed?: a guide for carers and care professionals; by Office of Fair Trading - OFT. 1st ed: Office of Fair Trading - OFT, 2008, 11 pp (code: OFT972).

A scam is a scheme to con someone out of their cash. Every year three million people fall victim to scams, losing an average of £850 each. This guide outlines what a carer can do to help protect the person they look after against such fraudulent actions. Anyone who thinks they have been the victim of a scam, or suspects a scam is being attempted, can contact Consumer Direct for clear, practical advice (tel: 08454 04 05 06) or visit website (www.consumerdirect.gov.uk). Posters and a bookmark are also available as part of a renewed campaign by the OFT, who are working with partners such as Help the Aged, Age Concern, Action on Elder Abuse. (KJ/RH)

Price: FoC

From : Tel: 0800 389 3158

Can you stop the person you care for from being scammed?: a guide for carers and care professionals; by Office of Fair Trading - OFT. 2nd ed: Office of Fair Trading - OFT, 2008, 11 pp (code: OFT972).

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Price: FoC

From : Tel: 0800 389 3158

Combating elder abuse: the role of guardians for older people in residential care; by Brian E Cox.

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 10, no 2, May 2008, pp 33-38.

The preparation of this paper was prompted by publicity and research evidence of neglect or abuse of older people in residential care. It sets out to present a new way of combating neglect/abuse of individual residents, drawing also on preliminary findings from a long-term research project on guardianship. This project, provisionally entitled "Guardianship Relations: models for ground rules", looks at the situations of all vulnerable people irrespective of settings, whereas this paper concentrates on the need for guardians for older people living in care homes. This article is followed by two responses. In the first, Andrew Dunning draws attention to the role of independent advocacy schemes already operating in parts of England. The second, by Leo Quigley, questions whether a "systems approach" or an individual approach which empowers residents as "consumers of care" is the central issue at stake. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

Crown Prosecution Service's draft policy statement on 'Crimes against the older person': summary; by Age Concern England - ACE. London: Age Concern England - ACE, January 2008, 3 pp (Policy response - ref: 0308(S)).

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) draft policy statement, 'Crimes against the older person', points out that older people are very likely to be targeted for specific crimes, such as distraction burglary and elder abuse because of the perceived or actual age or vulnerability. The CPS identifies areas of crime affecting older people that variously include elements of abuse or neglect, as well as burglary, theft, and assault. Age Concern England (ACE) makes recommendations to the CPS in respect of: the role of the CPS; relevant possible charges; support available to older victims and witnesses; sentencing; recording and monitoring crimes against older people; and the impact of the policy on older victims and witnesses. ACE recommends that a definition of elder abuse is adopted that includes a range of financial abuse, and abuse by strangers who have befriended vulnerable older people. (RH)

Price: FOC

From : Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER. Download document at <http://www.ageconcern.org.uk>

The effects of loneliness on telemarketing fraud vulnerability among older adults; by Linda M Alves, Steve R Wilson.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 20, no 1, 2008, pp 63-85.

Older people are disproportionately affected by telemarketing fraud, especially those who are socially isolated. 28 such victims of fraud completed a questionnaire assessing loneliness and other variables associated with telemarketing fraud vulnerability. Victims tended to be male, divorced or separated, college educated, and aged between 60 and 70. Age and marital status were significantly associated with loneliness. This study is an important first step for additional research in this area, and may enhance the prevention and intervention efforts of social service providers who work with older people who may be most vulnerable. (RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Elder mistreatment in the United States: prevalence estimates from a nationally representative study; by Edward O Laumann, Sara A Leistch, Linda J Waite.

Journals of Gerontology: Series B, Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences, vol 63B, no 4, July 2008, pp S248-S254.

The National Social Life, Health and Aging Project (NSHAP) is the first population-based, nationally representative study to ask older adults about their recent experience of mistreatment. This article provides estimates of mistreatment by family members and examines the association of mistreatment with demographic and health characteristics. The authors selected community-residing participants aged 57 to 85 using a multistage area probability design. Of those eligible, 3,005 participated in the study, for a weighted response rate of 75.5%. The researchers asked respondents if in the past year they had experienced mistreatment in the following domains: verbal, financial, and physical. They asked those who reported mistreatment about their relationship to the person responsible. In all, 9% of older adults reported verbal mistreatment, 3.5% financial mistreatment, and 0.2% physical mistreatment by a family member. Odds of verbal mistreatment were higher for women and those with physical vulnerabilities, and were lower for Latinos than for Whites. Odds of financial mistreatment were higher for African Americans and lower for Latinos than for Whites and were lower

for those with a spouse or romantic partner than for those without partners. Few older adults report mistreatment by family members, with older adults quite insulated from physical mistreatment. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 10795014

From : <http://www.geron.org>

The financial abuse of older people: a review from the literature carried out by the Centre for Policy on Ageing on behalf of Help the Aged; with an introduction and recommendations by Help the Aged; by Gillian Crosby, Angela Clark, Ruth Hayes, Kate Jones, Nat Lievesley, Centre for Policy on Ageing - CPA; Financial Exclusion Programme, Help the Aged. London: Help the Aged, 2008, 36 pp.

Financial abuse is one of the most prevalent forms of elder abuse, but the lack of a clear understanding became evident at a seminar hosted by Help the Aged in October 2006. While definitions and studies on the abuse of older people often include financial abuse, focused studies are less common and there is no agreed definition of financial abuse. This review aims to examine all aspects of financial abuse: definitions; its pervasiveness; interventions recognising and preventing abuse; advice, education and information for older people; the legal framework; and the regulatory framework. The Centre for Policy on Ageing (CPA) completed the research for this report in March 2007. Additional material from the Comic Relief study, "UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People", was added during summer 2008. The information on which all this is based is a literature review that was international in scope, including studies in English covering the broad areas of older people, social care, criminology, psychology, legal cases, and current affairs. A detailed methodology and full listing of sources is provided in a separate appendix. (RH)

From : Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. E-mail: info@helptheaged.org.uk

Website: www.helptheaged.org.uk Also available at: <http://www.cpa.org.uk/information/reviews/reviews.html>

The financial abuse of older people; by Centre for Policy on Ageing - CPA. London: Centre for Policy on Ageing, August 2008, 5 pp (CPA briefings 2008).

The Centre for Policy on Ageing (CPA) welcomes the Prevalence survey report on elder abuse published in 2007 by King's College London and the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) on behalf of Comic Relief. CPA has been working with Help the Aged in supporting their work on financial exclusion among older people, and was commissioned to conduct a review of the literature on financial abuse. As part of its ongoing information work, the Centre has drawn together this briefing to highlight key points on financial abuse drawn from the reports and studies held in the CPA Library. It highlights key points on the various definitions, extent, recognition, prevention, legislation and regulation of financial abuse. It also points to the need to devise information, education, advice and advocacy services centred on older people's needs. (RH)

From : CPA, 25-31 Ironmonger Row, London EC1V 3QP. <http://www.cpa.org.uk/policy>

Good practice in safeguarding adults: working effectively in adult protection; by Jacki Pritchard (ed). London: Jessica Kingsley, 2008, 270 pp (Good practice in health, social care and criminal justice).

As in 'Good practice with vulnerable adults' (Jessica Kingsley, 2001), the editor hopes that this book "will illustrate that effective work can be undertaken to prevent abuse but also that there can be positive outcomes for victims if work is undertaken with them in the long term". The "No secrets" guidance from the Department of Health (DH, 2000), together with 'Safeguarding adults' (ADSS, 2005) emphasise the importance of inter-agency working and working partnership. This book aims to broaden thinking about adult abuse, and assesses alternative models of practice such as criminal justice and welfare. Contributors write about vulnerable adults who have not been given enough attention in the adult protection literature: people with brain injuries; older prisoners; and adults from black and minority ethnic communities. As in the previous book, issues of domestic violence are covered, with the addition of honour-based crime. Other contributions consider service provider perspectives: adult protection co-ordinators; the role of the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI); and inquiries into abuse in institutions. Other topics covered include the Mental Capacity Act 2005, risk assessment, group work, and financial abuse. The book will be essential reading for anyone working with vulnerable people: social and health care workers and managers, police, probation officers, prison staff, advocates, volunteers, training officers and students. (RH)

Price: £19.99

From : Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 116 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JB. Website: www.jkp.com

National Payments Plan: consulting on change in UK payments: summary; by Age Concern England - ACE. London: Age Concern England - ACE, February 2008, 3 pp (Policy response - ref: 0208(S)).

The Payments Council was established in 2007, with an objective of leading the future development of co-operative payments services in the UK. Age Concern England (ACE) responds to the Payments Council on a draft National Payments Plan, noting areas of concern including: alternative methods of secure payment for those unable to use PINs; benefits payments; access to current accounts through post offices; action to reduce

financial abuse; financial exclusion problems for those with visual or hearing impairment; and tackling the "hidden" costs of fraud prevention. (RH)

Price: FOC

From : Age Concern England, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER. Download document at <http://www.ageconcern.org.uk>

The rise of the personal assistant; by Alison Petch.

Community Care, issue 1732, 24 July 2008, pp 30-31.

Personalisation promises to extend career opportunities for personal assistants. The author reviews 'Employment aspects and workforce implications of direct payments', by Lorna Adams and Laura Godwin of IFF Research, whose study was commissioned by Skills for Care. Their survey was based on face-to-face interviews with 526 people in receipt of direct payments in 2007 and self-completion surveys returned by 486 personal assistants. Issues discussed range from job satisfaction and satisfaction with care, to experiences of abuse and the need for training and staff development. (RH)

ISSN: 03075508

From : <http://www.communitycare.co.uk>

2007

Are you aware of financial abuse?; by Court of Protection; Public Guardianship Office - PGO. London: Public Guardianship Office - PGO, 2007, 2 pp leaflet.

People with mental incapacity are often highly vulnerable. When they lose mental capacity - due to illness or injury - they often become unable to manage their financial affairs. Without the right protection, they can be at risk of financial abuse and could face losing their home or their savings. This customer information leaflet explains how the Court of Protection and the Public Guardianship Office (PGO) can help. (RH)

From : Website: www.guardianship.gov.uk

Capacity to protect: the Mental Capacity Act explained; by Toby Williamson.

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 9, no 1, March 2007, pp 25-32.

2007 marks a major step forward in the history of adult protection with the implementation in England and Wales of the Mental Capacity Act 2005. Understandably, debates about adult protection have usually focused on the more obvious types of abuse: sexual, physical, financial and emotional. The Act addresses a much wider issue of abuse, where a person's right to make decisions and to have proper safeguards and protection if decisions need making on their behalf is overridden or ignored. This article gives an overview of the Act and its relevance to the files of adult protection. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

Cleaned out by the ones you trust: [financial abuse by family members and home care workers]; by Natalie Valios.

Community Care, issue 1688, 30 August 2007, pp 24-25.

About £2.1 million was stolen in 2006 from older people in financial scams often involving family members and home care workers. This article reports and comments on the findings on financial abuse in the 'UK study of abuse and neglect of older people' (National Centre for Social Research - NatCen, 2007). The role of the police, banks and social workers in recognising incidents of abuse and their perpetrators is highlighted. (RH)

ISSN: 03075508

From : <http://www.communitycare.co.uk>

The dignity issue: The cost of living: ... growing up is free, growing old is expensive [and other articles]; by Action on Elder Abuse.: Action on Elder Abuse, March-April 2007, pp 2-15.

Action Points, issue 30, March-April 2007, pp 2-15.

In January 2007, Action on Elder Abuse launched new findings on financial abuse of older people in their own homes, based on a study of all calls to the charity's helpline during 2006. The first report in this issue of Action Points outlines these findings, which indicate the scale of theft, fraud or deception perpetrated by victims' sons and daughters. Also included are: an overview of forthcoming joint projects; an introduction to the Care Services Improvement Partnership (CSIP) National Older People's National Mental Health Programme; and the role of sheltered housing in promoting dignity. (RH)

Elder abuse and neglect in an urban Chinese population; by XinQi Dong, Melissa A Simon, Martin Gorbien. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, vol 19, no 3/4, 2007, pp 79-96.

A cross-sectional study was performed at a major medical centre in Nan Jang to investigate prevalence of elder abuse and neglect in an urban Chinese population. 412 participants (mean age 69; and 59% male) completed the survey, of whom 145 (35%) were screened positive for elder abuse and neglect. Caregiver neglect was the most common form of abuse, followed by financial exploitation, psychological abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse, and abandonment. 36% of the victims suffered multiple forms of abuse and neglect. In the logistical regression analyses of the data, female gender, lower education and lower income were demographic risk factors associated with elder abuse and neglect. A better understanding of these and additional risk factors associated with elder abuse and neglect in older Chinese people is needed. (RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Framework document 2007; by Office of the Public Guardian.: Office of the Public Guardian, 2007, 26 pp.

The Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) is an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ), its purpose being to support people with capacity issues through implementing the Mental Capacity Act 2005, promoting decision making and raising awareness of its services and those of the Court of Protection. The OPG replaced the Public Guardianship Office (PGO) in October 2007; and this framework document sets out the structure of the agency, including its relationship with the Court of Protection and the judiciary, accountability to Parliament, performance management and support services. (RH)

From : Office of the Public Guardian, 12th floor, Archway Tower, 2 Junction Road, London N19 5SZ. Website: www.publicguardian.gov.uk

In safe keeping: supporting people who use regulated care services with their finances; by Commission for Social Care Inspection - CSCI. London: Commission for Social Care Inspection - CSCI, May 2007, 31 pp (CSCI 202).

InFocus, no 6, May 2007, 31 pp (CSCI 202).

This is the sixth in a series of bulletins that focus on particular quality issues in regulated social care services. This bulletin outlines how well care homes and home care agencies are performing against current regulations and standards on the safeguarding of people's money and valuables. It identifies good practice for care home managers and administrators, home care managers and care staff in how they support people using services to access, use and keep their money and valuables secure. This includes how to respond if abuse or neglect is suspected, particularly financial abuse. (RH)

Price: FOC

From : Commission for Social Care Inspection, 33 Greycoat Street, London SW1P 2QF. Orderline: 0870 240 7535 csci@accessplus.co.uk <http://www.csci.org.uk/publications>

Managing the financial assets of older people: balancing independence and protection; by Cheryl Tilse, Deborah Setterlund, Jill Wilson (et al).

British Journal of Social Work, vol 37, no 3, April 2007, pp 565-572.

Family involvement in managing older people's financial assets is an important area in policy and practice. This importance relates to the complexity of older people's assets, systems for paying for care, and concerns around substitute decision-making and financial abuse. Although a common task of informal care, little is known about older people's experiences and wishes in relation to asset management. This paper reports on a qualitative study of the experiences and perspectives of 34 older Australians receiving such assistance. It identifies three scenarios that promote or inhibit dependence in this context, and draws out the challenges for this emerging area of practice with older people and their families. (RH)

ISSN: 00453102

From : <http://bjsw.oxfordjournals.org>

The Mental Capacity Act, the Office of the Public Guardian and the New Court of Protection; by Yeslin Gearty. *The Journal of Adult Protection*, vol 9, no 3, August 2007, pp 39-46.

Most of the Mental Capacity Act 2005 was implemented on 1 October 2007. Parts of the Act came into force in April 2007, namely the creation of a new criminal offence of wilful neglect or ill treatment, the provision of Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (MCAs) in England, and the Code of Practice governing the Act. The months leading up to October 2007 have been an exceptionally busy time for the Public Guardianship Office (PGO). The legislation creates a new Office of the Public Guardian (OPG) replacing the PGO. This article indicates the changes in responsibility that the Act will bring about, particularly the new Court of Protection and its relationship with the OPG. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

The mistreatment and abuse of older people and the new UK national prevalence study; by Claudine McCreadie. *Journal of Care Services Management*, vol 1, no 2, January/March 2007, pp 173-179.

A major study of the prevalence of the abuse and mistreatment of older people in the UK begun in 2005 is being funded by Comic Relief with financial support from the Department of Health (DH). This paper outlines the history and policy background to this seminal research development, details the methodology being employed, and presents findings from the first stage of the research. The paper is an expanded version of the first part of an address given to Action on Elder Abuse's national conference, "Moving Forward", held on 13th March 2006. (RH)

ISSN: 17501679

From : <http://www.henrystewart.com>

Older people : abuse: [question for short debate, 1 February 2007]; by Sally Greengross, House of Lords.

Parliamentary Debates (Hansard) House of Lords Official Report, 1 February 2007, HL Deb 1 February 2007, cols 336-338.

Baroness Greengross asked Her Majesty's Government: What steps they will take following the report by Action on Elder Abuse on money taken from older people by their families and carers. Lord Hunt of Kings Heath (Minister of State, Department of Health) responded that "it is a very interesting report and confirms that there are serious problems to deal with. The Government are giving every consideration to measures which will effectively tackle the growing concern in our society on this matter. Older people and adults with disabilities have the right to expect that everything is done to minimise the risk of abuse." The debate included questions from Baroness Barker (Liberal Democrat) on whether the Minister accepts that the lack of a clear definition of financial abuse itself leads to abuse. "Does he also accept that there is a plethora of guidance available to different people - on the web, for example - but that some of it is conflicting, and that there is therefore a case for consolidated guidance that is available to private institutions such as banks, statutory authorities, family and informal carers, so that there is a common basis upon which to detect and prevent financial abuse of older people?" The Minister stated that financial abuse is defined in the "No secrets" document; and accepting that the AEA definition is wider, the question of wider guidance would be considered in the context of research that was being undertaken. (RH)

From : Download from website (26/02/07):

<http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/ld200607/ldhansrd/text/70201-0002.htm>

Older women's fears of violence: the need for interventions that enable active ageing; by Karen Barnett, Laurie Buys, Jan Lovie-Kitchin (et al).

Journal of Women & Aging, vol 19, nos 3/4, 2007, pp 179-194.

Women's fear of violence can negatively affect their active participation in life. The Triple A (Australian Active Ageing) Study conducted with 2020 Australian respondents aged 50-90 examined aspects of work, learning, social, spiritual and emotional status, health, vision, home life, life events, demographics, and asked an open-ended question about what being actively engaged in life meant. Ordinal regression was carried out on two dependent variables: wanting and needing to learn to discourage violence. Analyses found that as women's age increased, those on lower incomes were more likely than others to say they needed to learn how to discourage violence against them. This paper investigates the variables associated with the findings: transport, finances, news media, home safety, and reduced social interactions. Results highlight the importance of understanding women's fear in the context of personal and social issues, and the need to provide learning opportunities to improve safety and social engagement. (RH)

ISSN: 08952841

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

A review of literature on effective interventions that prevent and respond to harm against adults; by Halina Kalaga, Paul Kingston, Scottish Government Social Research; Centre for Ageing and Mental Health, Staffordshire University.: Electronic format only, 16 November 2007, 73 pp (Health and Community Care).

This report presents a review of literature on interventions relating to different types of harm against adults: physical, psychological, financial, sexual, discriminatory, and neglect (including self-neglect). It highlights interventions used at three stages in relation to abuse - prevention, responding to allegations, and remedying harm; and falling within two broad categories of intervention - legal and welfare. (KJ/RH)

From : Download from website: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Resource/Doc/203554/0054266.pdf>

The role of the independent mental capacity advocate in adult protection; by Teresa Gorczynska, David Thompson, Advocacy Partners.

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 9, no 4, November 2007, pp 38-45.

The Mental Capacity Act 2005 introduced the role of the independent mental capacity advocate (IMCA). This is essentially a new safeguard for adults when they lack the capacity to make critical health and welfare decisions, particularly those without family or friends to represent them. IMCAs can have a statutory role in adult protection cases that is detailed in this paper. Advocacy Partners (AP) was one of seven organisations piloting this service in England before its introduction nationally in April 2007. AP is now commissioned to provide the IMCA service in 10 local authorities in south-east England. Of the 270 cases referred to Advocacy Partners that have met the criteria for an IMCA since the Act was implemented, 38 were referred as part of adult protection proceedings. The early experience of IMCA involvement in adult protection cases is discussed. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People; by King's College London; National Centre for Social Research - NatCen. London: National Centre for Social Research - NatCen, June 2007, unnumbered (Research Findings).

Elder abuse and neglect (mistreatment) are increasingly acknowledged as a social problem in the UK and internationally, but there has been an absence of any sound data on the extent of this in the UK. This lack of evidence prompted Comic Relief and the Department of Health (DH) to fund a survey to provide nationally representative prevalence estimates of elder abuse and neglect in the community. These research findings outline the survey's methodology and main results. Overall, 2.8% of people aged 66+ living in private households (including sheltered housing) reported experiencing mistreatment involving a family member, friend or care worker during the past year. This equates to about 227000 people aged 66+ in the UK. Using broader definitions to include neighbours and acquaintances, prevalence increases to 4% (324000 aged 66+). The survey covers five types of mistreatment: neglect; financial abuse; psychological abuse; physical abuse; and sexual abuse. (RH)

Price: Full report from NatCen

From : National Centre for Social Research, 35 Northampton Square, London EC1V 0AX. Contact: Sue Johnson for further information, or email : info@natcen.ac.uk <http://www.natcen.ac.uk>

UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People: prevalence survey report; prepared for Comic Relief and the Department of Health; by Madeleine O'Keeffe, Amy Hills, Melanie Doyle (et al), King's College London; National Centre for Social Research - NatCen. London: National Centre for Social Research - NatCen, June 2007, 87 pp (+ Appendices).

Elder abuse and neglect (mistreatment) are increasingly acknowledged as a social problem in the UK and internationally, but there has been an absence of any sound data on the extent of this in the UK. This lack of evidence prompted Comic Relief and the Department of Health (DH) to commission the National Centre for Social Research (NatCen) and King's College London to carry out this survey. This report introduces the survey and the sample characteristics: more than 2100 people in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland took part in the survey between March and September 2006. The survey covers five types of mistreatment: neglect; financial abuse; psychological abuse; physical abuse; and sexual abuse. It estimates a 2.8% prevalence rate of mistreatment for older people living in the community (equating to about 227000 people aged 66+ in the UK). Using broader definitions to include neighbours and acquaintances, prevalence increases to 4% (324000 aged 66+). The report also discusses findings on: perpetrator characteristics; the impact of mistreatment; and prevalence estimates using alternative definitions of mistreatment. Appendices include the survey methodology, the Growing Older: Life Experiences and Wellbeing questionnaire and associated documentation. (RH)

Price: £15.00

From : National Centre for Social Research, 35 Northampton Square, London EC1V 0AX. Contact: Sue Johnson for further information, or email : info@natcen.ac.uk <http://www.natcen.ac.uk> Report on Comic Relief website: <http://www.comicrelief.com/elder-abuse/>

Understanding financial elder abuse in families: the potential of routine activities theory; by Deborah Setterlund, Cheryl Tilse, Jill Wilson (et al).

Ageing and Society, vol 27, part 4, July 2007, pp 599-614.

The aim of this paper is to stimulate theoretical thought about financial elder abuse within families, by exploring the potential of 'routine activities theory' for raising our understanding of, and response to, its occurrences. Research into financial elder abuse, defined as the illegal or improper use of a person's finances or property another person, has tended to emphasise the abusive event and the associated risk factors. 'Routine activities theory', in contrast, directs attention more to developing prevention strategies that focus on everyday activities

and hence seek to reduce the opportunities for illegal activity. The authors' research programme on the broad topic of money management and older people in Australia has conceptualised financial elder abuse as one possible outcome of the family management of older people's assets. This paper reports an application of routine activities theory to in-depth data of the asset-management practices and experiences of 81 family members who were assisting 86 older people. The paper concludes that the theory contributes to our understanding of how and why financial abuse occurs in families. It makes clear the distorting influence of a sense of entitlement and the preventive importance of both capable guardians, to oversee family-asset management and be alert to mismanagement, and the need for improved financial awareness, skills and probity in the community in connection with this common task of assisting older people to manage their financial assets. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 0144686X

From : http://www.journals.cambridge.org/jid_ASO

Who decides now?: protecting and empowering vulnerable adults who lose the capacity to make decisions for themselves; by Robert Johns.

British Journal of Social Work, vol 37, no 3, April 2007, pp 557-564.

Implementing the Mental Capacity Act 2005 in England and Wales heralds a new era for social work practitioners and researchers. Protecting and empowering vulnerable adults - an important element of adult care social work - relies on a legal framework that attempts to balance adults' rights with the desire to protect them. The Act is part of that framework, addressing the fundamental issue of when and how decisions can be made on behalf of people who lose decision-making abilities ('capacity'). The Act encompasses the meaning of incapacity and best interests, advance directives concerning treatment, managing people's affairs and making decisions for them, overseeing the delegation process, and research. In explaining how the Act deals with some of these challenges, the article alerts practitioners and researchers to the key areas in which the Act will make a major impact. (RH)

ISSN: 00453102

From : <http://bjsw.oxfordjournals.org>

2006

Access to assets: older people with impaired capacity and financial abuse; by Anne-Louise McCawley, Cheryl Tilse, Jill Wilson (et al).

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 8, no 1, May 2006, pp 20-32.

A significant proportion of older Australians is likely to have a disability for decision-making by reason of impaired capacity. This paper draws on findings from a secondary analysis of suspected financial abuse cases in the files of the Guardianship and Administration Tribunal in Queensland, Australia. It explores the association between formal and semi-formal asset management arrangements and suspected financial abuse cases. The role of families as a formal asset manager is also considered. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

Adult protection data collection and reporting requirements: conclusions and recommendations from a two-year study into adult protection recording systems in England, funded by the Department of Health; by Action on Elder Abuse - AEA. London: Action on Elder Abuse, 2006, 72 pp.

Reports on the Adult Protection Analysis Project (co-ordinated by Daniel Blake), the aim of which was to investigate and develop ways of reporting on and analysing data obtained by local authorities under adult protection policies developed through the "No secrets" guidance. A study of nine local authorities found the most common form of abuse reported was physical abuse, followed by financial abuse. Provides key recommendations for government. (RH)

From : Download: <http://www.elderabuse.org.uk/Useful%20downloads/AEA/AP%20Monitoring.pdf>

Be alert to financial abuse: it happens, it's not OK: [miscellany of items from Age Concern New Zealand's website on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, Towards Prevention of Financial Abuse, and factsheets]; by Age Concern New Zealand.: Age Concern New Zealand, June 2006, various pagings.

Financial abuse is a form of elder abuse. It is the misuse of an older person's money or property by a relative or other trusted person. To coincide with World Elder Abuse Awareness Day 15 June 2006, Age Concern New Zealand produced documentation on elder abuse, and on its Towards Prevention of Financial Abuse project. The aim of Towards prevention is to promote greater public awareness of financial abuse as a form of elder abuse and neglect, for example through educational resources, 'It's your money' and 'Be alert to financial abuse'. Factsheets on financial abuse, and elder abuse and neglect indicate the extent of the problem, as does 'Key

findings from An analysis of referrals for the period 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2004' produced by ACNZ's Elder Abuse and Neglect Prevention Service. (RH)

From : Website: www.ageconcern.org.nz E-mail: national.office@ageconcern.org.nz

Carers and the management of financial assets in later life; by Hilary Arksey, Anne Corden, Caroline Glendinning (et al), Social Policy Research Unit - SPRU, University of York. York: Social Policy Research Unit, University of York, September 2006, 4 pp (Research works, no 2006-02).

Helping older people manage their financial assets is a common experience for relatives and friends. Policy and practice have concentrated on protecting vulnerable adults and developing formal arrangements for people who are unable to make their own decisions. Recognition of the role of relatives and friends in managing older people's assets is limited. This exploratory review draws attention to the growing importance and complexity of asset management, and the information needs of older people and their carers. One of the seven key findings details that the extent of deliberate financial abuse is unclear; doubtful practices may reflect carers' ignorance or misunderstanding of the complexities of managing someone else's finances. The review has also identified gaps in knowledge and questions for further research. The research was funded by the Actuarial Profession and conducted in early 2006. The authors' full report, published as 'Minding the money: carers and the management of financial assets in later life', is available on the Social Policy Research Unit (SPRU) website. (KJ/RH)

Price: FOC

From : SPRU, University of York, Heslington, York YO10 5DD. <http://www.york.ac.uk/spru> Full report can be downloaded from: <http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/spru/pubs/pdf/loA.pdf>

Direct payments : freedom from abuse?; by Phil Madden.

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 8, no 4, December 2006, p 32.

While direct payments and individualised budgets have the potential to empower the service user, there is an increasing awareness of how vulnerable people might be abused when using the services obtained through direct payments. The problem identified by Phil Madden is that service provider organisations are not necessarily free from abuse. It is therefore important that such services use Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and POVA list staff checks in order to prevent abuse. Greater understanding is needed of why abuse occurs, and how to prevent and contain it, which applies to all service models. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

Direct payments : freedom from abuse?: responses to Phil Madden's viewpoint; by Leo Quigley, Gary Fitzgerald, Paul Swift.

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 8, no 4, December 2006, pp 33-38.

Leo Quigley, Service Manager for Adult Protection, Sheffield sympathises with the views expressed by Phil Madden, and the difficulties of reconciling efforts to counter abuse with the potential of direct payments to empower vulnerable people. Having put the case for protection and preventive work, Quigley concludes that empowerment implies people controlling their own lives - which won't be achieved if only the 'need' for protection is seen. Gary Fitzgerald, Chief Executive, Action on Elder Abuse (AEA) supports both the rights of adults to exercise informed choice and control over their lives, and the principles behind direct payments. Rather, there is a need for a balance between autonomy, rights, self-determination and protection and safety. Paul Swift, Research Fellow at the Foundation for People with Learning Disabilities acknowledges that there is a tension between the objectives of choice, independence and control that are behind direct payments, and the duty of local authorities to protect vulnerable adults. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

English perceptions of elder abuse; by Maria Daskalopoulos, Anthony S J Mullin, Elizabeth Donovan (et al).

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 18, no 2/3, 2006, pp 33-50.

Sixty participants (14 males, 46 females) provided examples of their perceptions of extreme, moderate and mild elder abuse inflicted by adult children against ageing parents. As examples of extreme abuse, most participants mentioned neglect and physical aggression. Various forms of neglect and psychological abuse were their most common examples of moderate and mild abuse. Within these main categories, the specific sub-types most frequently mentioned by the sample included physical neglect, psychological neglect, verbal abuse, and deprivation. More females than males provided examples of financial abuse and physical neglect. Females were also more likely than males to list psychological neglect as an extreme form of abuse, and disrespect as a form of mild abuse. At the moderate level, males referred to abuse relating to power more often than females. A positive relationship was found between age and the number of examples of physical neglect given at the moderate level and the number of examples of emotional abuse given at the mild level. (RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Family conflict in dementia: prodigal sons and black sheep; by Carmelle Peisah, Henry Brodaty, Carolyn Quadrio.

International Journal of Geriatric Psychiatry, vol 21, no 5, May 2006, pp 485-492.

The file notes of 50 cases of family and systems conflict for cases of dementia presented to the Guardianship Tribunal of New South Wales, Australia were examined. Demographics, MMSE score, and type and severity of dementia were recorded. Documents and evidence presented to the Tribunal were coded and subjected to thematic analysis to identify conflict themes, protagonists and the position of the person with dementia with respect to the conflict. Family conflict was most commonly seen in mild to moderate dementia. Conflict occurred most frequently between siblings (with a group of siblings allied against a "black sheep" member) and involved other systems such as service providers in 25% of cases. The person with dementia was usually involved in the conflict or in alliance with one or other of the family members in conflict, especially when paranoid ideation was fuelled by family members. Common themes included accusation of neglect, exploitation, lack of communication, or sequestration of the person with dementia. No family had received family therapy prior to the application. Conciliation during the hearing was successful in 30% of cases. Legal transactions such as powers of attorney were frequently made and frequently revoked by people with dementia involved in family conflict. The understanding of family conflict in dementia has ramifications for both clinical and medico-legal practice. These findings may encourage family-centred interventions which address family dynamics and interpersonal conflict. They may also assist in capacity assessments of people with dementia who change legal documents because of family conflict. (RH)

ISSN: 08856230

From : <http://www.interscience.wiley.com>

Financial abuse of older people: building knowledge from recent Australian research: ARAS Conference, 15 June 2006; by Cheryl Tilse, University of Queensland, Australia. St Lucia, Queensland: unpublished powerpoint slides, 2006, 32 pp.

Powerpoint presentation made on behalf of the University of Queensland Ageing and Assets Research Program. Building practice in relation to asset management (AM) and financial abuse in aged care facilities was one of the Research Program's projects 2005-08. The presentation defines financial abuse. It notes the range of tasks typically undertaken by family members on managing an older person's financial assets; the extent to which AM wishes were met in a study of scenarios for 34 older Australians; and issues for particular groups - indigenous people, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities (CALD) in rural and remote areas. (RH)

From : Dr Cheryl Tilse, School of Social Work & Human Services, Chamberlain Building, Campbell Road, The University of Queensland, St Lucia, 4072, Australia. C.Tilse@social.uq.edu.au

Financial exclusion among older people; by Financial Exclusion Programme, Help the Aged; Andrew Irving Associates. London: Help the Aged, 2006, 36 pp.

Research conducted by Andrew Irving Associates for Help the Aged's Financial Exclusion Programme indicates that post office closures are having - and will continue to have - a major impact on many older people in accessing cash and managing their money. This report considers the characteristics of financially excluded people. It quotes older people in its sample (mainly from lower socio-economic groups), who describe their day-to-day management of finances, and explain financial exclusion. Among their problems with financial services are access to cash and bank accounts, post office closures, and debt and borrowing. Disability problems, new technology, social isolation, personal safety and security, and financial abuse are quoted as the key factors that encourage financial exclusion. The report outlines factors likely to reduce financial exclusion, but notes the limited availability of sources of advice. It concludes with a discussion on financial inclusion conducted with 10 older residents on the Aylesbury Estate, Southwark. (RH)

ISBN: 1845980158

Price: £6.00

From : Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. E-mail: info@helptheaged.org.uk

Website: www.helptheaged.org.uk

Financial exploitation of older persons: challenges and opportunities to identify, prevent, and address it in the United States; by Donna J Rabiner, Janet O'Keeffe, David Brown.

Journal of Aging & Social Policy, vol 18, no 2, 2006, pp 47-68.

Financial exploitation is a recognised social problem of unknown, though likely increasing, magnitude. It can occur through numerous methods, including the misuse of powers of attorney and guardianship, illegal transfers of property, and outright fraud and theft. Financial crimes against older people are difficult to deal with, because

they often go unreported. This paper summarises findings from a study of financial exploitation of older people. The authors review what is known about the nature and scope of financial exploitation of older people, and describe barriers to tackling the problem. They also identify gaps in knowledge; discuss current methods for tackling financial exploitation, and provide recommendations and suggested policy approaches for prevention and remediation. (RH)

ISSN: 08959420

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Maltreatment of patients in nursing homes: there is no safe place; by Diana K Harris, Michael L Benson. Binghamton, NY: Haworth Pastoral Press, 2006, xiv + 146 pp.

Old, weak and often cognitively impaired, nursing home patients can be easy targets for physical, psychological, material, and financial mistreatment at the hands of those entrusted with their care, safety and well-being. This book applies criminological theory to help develop practical methods of controlling abuse, and presents the results of the first and only US nationwide study on the theft of patients' belongings, a form of abuse too often ignored by the nursing home industry (47 nursing homes were surveyed). The information gained from the survey forms the basis for detailed recommendations for creating a safer environment and reducing all forms of abuse. (KJ/RH)

ISBN: 0789023261

Price: \$16.95 (pbk); \$34.95 (hbk)

From : The Haworth Press, Inc., 10 Alice Street, Binghamton, NY 13904-1580, USA.

<http://www.HaworthPress.com>

Money matters - financial services and older people: Help the Aged policy statement 2006; by Help the Aged. London: Help the Aged, January 2006, 5 pp.

Older people are not getting the financial services or advice they need. This policy statement updates information previously published in 2004, and comments on a range of issues on which Help the Aged wishes the financial services industry and/or the government to take action. These issues include: bank closures; "Chip and Pin"; insurance; bank accounts; equity release; financial advice; and debt problems. Good financial advice would help older people to better manage their limited resources and reduce the risk of financial abuse. (RH)

Price: FOC

From : Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. www.helptheaged.org.uk Email:

info@helptheaged.org.uk

A pilot study on the abuse of elderly people with dementia in Turkey; by Nesrin Asti, Nese Erdem.

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 8, no 4, December 2006, pp 13-19.

Turkey faces many problems with its rapidly ageing population. Physical and emotional problems may increase with advancing age; for example, dementia can lead to biopsychosocial problems of patients, as well as stress and burnout of caregivers. Older people with dementia who have complex care needs appear to be especially at risk of abuse and neglect. Research into elder abuse in Turkey has shown that abuse has been found to occur in low proportions: physical abuse 1.5%, financial abuse 2.5%, and psychological abuse or neglect 3.5%. The pilot study described was conducted with 40 patients aged 60+ who had dementia and who were admitted to the Outpatient Unit of Geriatric Medicine of the University of Mugla, together with 40 caregiver members of a patient's family. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

2005

The abuse of direct payments: useful websites; by Brian Williams.

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 7, no 3, October 2005, pp 38-39.

When direct payments were piloted in Norfolk in 1997, the research noted finding no evidence of abuse, despite concerns. The author reviews the direct payments and abuse content of websites run by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), Glasgow City Council, the National Autistic Society (NAS), Action on Elder Abuse (AEA), Age Concern, Research into Practice, and the Welsh Assembly. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

Definitions and indicators of elder abuse: a Delphi survey of APS caseworkers; by Jeanette M Daly, Gerald J Jogerst.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 17, no 1, 2005, pp 1-19.

Instruments designed to measure specific types of elder mistreatment are not available, but they may be warranted after an initial screen indicates abuse or risk for abuse. This study's purpose was to evaluate definitions for different types of elder mistreatment and validate the indicators as perceived by adult protective services (APS) caseworkers' opinions. Through 351 APS network participants, a Delphi survey (which involves structuring group communication in stages or 'rounds') was completed. A 45% return rate was achieved for Round 1, and 40% for Round 2, with 70 same respondents from both rounds. These types of abuse, emotional abuse, exploitation of finances and/or property, neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse, have some similar and some extremely different indicators that singly and together expand their definition. Instruments to ensure five different types of abuse are offered for caseworker or prevalence study use. (RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Elder mistreatment in urban India: a community case study; by Srinivasan Chokkanathan, Alex E Y Lee.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 17, no 2, 2005, pp 45-62.

This study examined the extent and correlates of elder mistreatment among 400 community dwelling older adults aged 65+ in Chennai, India. The prevalence rate of mistreatment was 14%. Chronic verbal abuse was the most common, followed by financial abuse; and the rate of physical abuse and neglect was similar. Among the mistreated, exactly half of them had experienced more than one type of mistreatment. With the exception of financial abuse, a significantly greater number of women experienced verbal and physical abuse as well as neglect compared to men. Adult children, daughters-in-law, spouses and sons-in-law were the prominent perpetrators. The mistreated older adults were more depressed and less satisfied with life than those who were not mistreated. Logistic regression analysis revealed gender, social support and subjective rating of physical health as significant factors associated with abuse. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

An exploratory study of abuse among frail elders using services in a small village in Japan; by Tokie Anme, Mary McCall, Toshio Tatara.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 17, no 2, 2005, pp 1-20.

The purpose of this study was to explore the presence and form of elder abuse and to identify associated risk factors for abuse in a small sample (n=78) of frail elders (60+) using support services in a suburban community in Japan. The key results were that 17.9% were categorized as being abused, with psychological abuse, neglect and financial abuse being the most common forms. Cultural factors may impact upon who is an abuser, but the contributing factors in this Japanese sample do not significantly differ from results found in other countries. Preventive strategies need to be targeted at multiple levels. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Minding the money: a growing responsibility for informal carers; by Cheryl Tilse, Deborah Sutterland, Jill Wilson (et al).

Ageing and Society, vol 25, part 2, March 2005, pp 215-227.

Managing the assets of older people is a common and potentially complex task of informal care with legal, financial, cultural, political and family dimensions. Older people are increasingly recognised as having significant assets, but the family, the state, service providers and the market have competing interests in their use. Increased policy interest in self-provision and user charges for services underline the importance of asset management in protecting older people's current and future health, care and accommodation choices. Although "minding the money" has generally been included as an informal care-giving task, there is limited recognition of either its growing importance and complexity or of caregivers' involvement. The focus of both policy and practice have been primarily on substitute decision-making and abuse. This paper reports on an Australian national survey and semi-structured interviews that have explored the prevalence of non-professional involvement in asset management. The findings reveal the nature and extent of involvement, the tasks that informal carers take on, the management processes that they use, and that "minding the money" is a common informal care task, and mostly undertaken in the private sphere using some risky practices. Assisting informal care-givers with asset management and protecting older people from financial risks and abuse require various strategic policy and practice responses that extend beyond substitute decision-making legislation. Policies and programmes are required to: increase the awareness of the tasks, tensions and practices surrounding asset

management; improve the financial literacy of older people, their informal care-givers and service providers; ensure access to information, advice and support services; and develop better accountability practices. (RH)

ISSN: 0144686X

From : <http://journals.cambridge.org/>

The parallels between undue influence, domestic violence, stalking, and sexual assault; by Bonnie Brandl, Candace J Heisler, Lori A Stiegel.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 17, no 3, 2005, pp 37-52.

The dynamics of undue influence (UI) have many similarities with domestic violence, stalking and grooming behaviour used by some sexual predators. This article should help practitioners - particularly law enforcement investigators and prosecutors - to better recognise UI as a pattern of behaviours, not as an isolated incident. Understanding the dynamics of UI will enhance professionals' appreciation of the responses of the victims and the manipulative nature of exploiters. Strategies that have been used effectively with domestic violence, stalking, and some sexual abuse cases may provide remedies for victims of UI and criminal justice options for holding perpetrators accountable. Enhanced awareness of these dynamics should lead to improved investigations, more effective strategies when interviewing and working with victims, and more successful prosecutions of perpetrators who use UI to financially exploit an older person. (RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Review of the Mental Capacity Act 2005; by Rowena Jones.

Psychiatric Bulletin, vol 29, no 11, November 2005, pp 423-427.

Legislation to protect those with incapacity has built up in a piecemeal fashion, leading to concerns about abuse, particularly of the enduring power of attorney (EPA) system. Healthcare and welfare decisions are not covered by statute law, although gaps are partially filled with case law examples. Those making such decisions on behalf of the incapacitated rely on a common law defence of necessity to justify their actions. Professional bodies and voluntary organisations dealing with mental disability have lobbied the government for years to produce clear legislation; and the Mental Capacity Bill followed 16 years of consultation. The Mental Capacity Act received the Royal Assent in June 2005. However, it is not clear as yet when the Act will come into force, and further legislative procedure is still required. The author considers the extent to which the Act is likely to be effective with issues such as decision-making, advance directives and advocacy. It is unclear, though, whether cases such as "Bournewood" (R v Bournewood Mental Health NHS Trust ex parte L) would be resolved any more satisfactorily. (RH)

ISSN: 09556036

From : <http://pb.rcpsych.org>

Tackling domestic violence: effective interventions and approaches; by Marianne Hester, Nicole Westmarland, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Home Office. London: Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Home Office, 2005, 134 pp (Home Office research study 290).

Domestic violence can be physical, psychological, emotional, sexual or financial. This report brings together the findings from an evaluation of 27 domestic violence projects funded as part of the Home Office's Crime Reduction Programme (CRP). Examples from these projects illustrate how women can be supported in disclosure, reporting to the police, and prosecution through the courts. Other ways of supporting victims of domestic violence (not all of whom are women) are considered: reducing repeat victimisation; and support through individual work and groupwork. (RH)

ISBN: 1844735567

From : Home Office, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Communications Development Unit, Room 264, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT. <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rdsE-mail:publications.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk>

Tackling domestic violence: providing advocacy and support to survivors of domestic violence; by Alpa Parmar, Alice Sampson, Alana Diamond, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Home Office; University of East London. London: Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Home Office, 2005, 12 pp (Development and practice report 34).

Domestic violence can be physical, psychological, emotional, sexual or financial. This report provides concise guidelines to those practitioners who work directly with female victims of domestic violence. The role of these specialist practitioners is to provide information, advice and support to enable women (and their children) to access a range of legal and non-legal resources and services that ultimately leads towards violence-free lives. The report draws on the independent evaluation of a number of multi-agency projects, which aimed to support

female victims of domestic violence, and which were funded under the remit of the Home Office's Crime Reduction Programme (CRP) Violence Against Women Initiative (VAWI). (RH)

From : Home Office, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Communications Development Unit, Room 264, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT. E-mail: publications.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Tackling domestic violence: providing advocacy and support to survivors from Black and other minority ethnic communities; by Alpa Parmar, Alice Sampson, Alana Diamond, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Home Office; University of East London. London: Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Home Office, 2005, 12 pp (Development and practice report 35).

Domestic violence can be physical, psychological, emotional, sexual or financial. This report aims to provide concise guidelines to those practitioners who work directly with female victims of domestic violence who are from Black and minority ethnic (BME) communities. The role of these specialist practitioners is to provide advice and support to victims and their children to ultimately lead towards violence-free lives. The report draws on the independent evaluation of a number of multi-agency projects which aimed to support female victims of domestic violence and which were funded under the remit of the Home Office's Crime Reduction Programme (CRP) Violence Against Women Initiative (VAWI). (RH)

From : Home Office, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Communications Development Unit, Room 264, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT. E-mail: publications.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

2004

Caring but not coping: [the frustrations and isolation of many carers]; by Anabel Unity Sale.

Community Care, no 1520, 29 April 2004, pp 32-33.

Cases of carers harming or killing those they care for are few. However, such rare occurrences should not blind us to the frustrations and isolation that drive many carers to believe that they can no longer cope. This article reports on recent cases of murders of older people by their carers. It also suggests services and financial assistance to which carers are entitled. A Carers (Equal Opportunities) Bill has been introduced, which gives carers new rights to opportunities for education, life-long learning and work, and which the government has said it will support. Such initiatives should be reflected in support services. (RH)

ISSN: 03075508

From : <http://www.communitycare.co.uk>

A conceptual framework of financial exploitation of older persons; by Donna J Rabiner, Janet O'Keeffe, David Brown.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 16, no 2, 2004, pp 53-74.

Financial exploitation (also known as financial abuse) is a type of abuse that has serious implications for the victim's economic well-being and quality of life. Although work to date has provided some basic information on the risk factors associated with financial exploitation and its potential impact, much remains to be learned about its characteristics, causes and consequences. This article describes a conceptual model that can guide the understanding of financial exploitation of older people. This framework can assist policymakers, practitioners, law enforcement officials, and others to better develop, implement and evaluate different strategies to reduce the risk of financial abuse among older people. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Elder abuse: Second report, Health Committee, of session 2003-04. Volume I : Report, together with formal minutes; by David Hinchliffe (chairman), Health Committee, House of Commons - HoC. London: Electronic format, 20 April 2004, 61 pp (HC 2003-04 111-I).

While the profile of child abuse has been raised in the last few years and the Government has acted to introduce controls and measures to identify that problem, abuse of older people is hidden and often ignored. This report defines elder abuse; estimates its prevalence; examines the settings of abuse (domiciliary, care homes, and the NHS); and describes the forms of physical abuse (medication, restraint and violence), also financial abuse. The Committee refers to evidence received on tackling elder abuse, through training and good practice, dealing with complaints, case review, and changing the culture. It recognises the contribution of regulation and the role of regulatory and inspection bodies; and comments on the part played by death certification. The Committee makes recommendations on these various points, and for national and local strategy. While welcoming the introduction of the Single Assessment Process (SAP) and the opportunities it presents for reviewing older people's care, it notes the absence of adult protection standards from the National Service Framework for Older People (NSF). It also urges the implementation of the Protection of Vulnerable Adults (POVA) list across health and social care settings. (RH)

From : Downloaded (22.4.04) : www.official-documents.co.uk

Financial exploitation of older persons: policy issues and recommendations for addressing them; by Donna J Rabiner, David Brown, Janet O'Keeffe.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 16, no 1, 2004, pp 65-84.

The number of reported cases of abuse of older people living in domestic settings in the United States has increased dramatically in the past two decades. A frequent form of elder abuse is financial exploitation which can occur through the misuse of powers of attorney and guardianships, illegal transfers of property, and outright fraud and theft. Financial crimes against older people are particularly difficult to examine because they are often unreported. The US Congress addressed concerns about financial abuse in its 2000 re-authorization of the Older Americans Act, which required the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to conduct a study of financial exploitation of older people. This article reports the results of this study. (KJ/RH)
ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

The Government response to the Scrutiny Committee's report on the draft Mental Incapacity Bill: presented to Parliament by the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor; by Department for Constitutional Affairs - DCA. London: TSO, 2004, 43 pp (Cm 6121).

A Joint Committee of the House of Commons and the House of Lords published its report on pre-legislative scrutiny on the draft Mental Incapacity Bill on 17 November 2003. This report responds to the Committee's 99 recommendations. Among the Bill's features highlighted are: advance decisions to refuse treatment; protecting vulnerable people from abuse (POVA); and advocacy. On POVA, this response points out that the "No Secrets" guidance extends beyond adults who lack capacity, to all vulnerable adults. The new Public Guardian under the Bill would have a role working with councils and other agencies. (RH)

ISBN: 0101612125

Price: £9.25

From : TSO, PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN. Website: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop DCA website: www.dca.gov.uk/family/mi/

Home or hell: older tenants' experiences in the private rented sector; by Tina Fear, Nancy Carlton, Frances Heywood (et al).

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 6, no 2, September 2004, pp 15-20.

Issues raised here are drawn from the findings of a housing investigation that explored harassment and abuse of older tenants in the private rented sector. The project examined older people's experiences and raised important links between health and housing. The article highlights financial abuse directed towards these older people, and examines implications for professionals and agencies. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

Money matters - financial services and older people: Help the Aged policy statement 2004; by Help the Aged. London: Help the Aged, September 2004, 5 pp.

Older people are not getting the financial services or advice they need. This policy statement comments on a range of issues on which Help the Aged wishes the financial services industry and/or the government to take action. These issues include: bank closures; "Chip and Pin"; insurance; bank accounts; equity release; financial advice; and debt problems. Good financial advice would help older people to better manage their limited resources and reduce the risk of financial abuse. (RH)

Price: FOC

From : Help the Aged, 207-221 Pentonville Road, London N1 9UZ. www.helptheaged.org.uk Email: info@helptheaged.org.uk

Tackling domestic violence: the role of health professionals; by Ann Taket, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Home Office; Faculty of Health and Social Care, London South Bank University. London: Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Home Office, 2004, 12 pp (Home Office Development and practice report, 32).

Domestic violence can be physical, psychological, emotional, sexual or financial. This report is intended to raise health professionals' awareness to the scale of the health problem represented by domestic violence, and to alert other health professionals to the contribution they can make to tackling the issue. The report explains how health professionals can make an important contribution to tackling domestic violence by: asking women directly about whether they have experienced abuse; enabling women to access specialised services; and supporting

them in changing their situation. In order to achieve this, training is necessary; the nature of such training is outlined. (RH)

From : Home Office, Research, Development and Statistics Directorate, Communications Development Unit, Room 264, 50 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AT. E-mail: publications.rds@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

2003

Big brother is watching you: the ethical implications of electronic surveillance measures in the elderly with dementia and in adults with learning difficulties; by S Welsh, A Hassiotis, G O'Mahoney (et al).

Aging & Mental Health, vol 7, no 5, September 2003, pp 372-375.

Electronic surveillance technologies are now becoming widely available to health care professionals who have had the opportunity to consider the ethical and moral ramifications. Electronic tagging and tracking devices may be seen as a way of creating a more secure environment for vulnerable individuals, such as older people with dementia or those with learning disabilities. However, the proponents of surveillance devices have met with considerable resistance and opposition from those who perceive it as contrary to human dignity and freedom, with its connotations of criminal surveillance. There is also increased opportunity for abuse, for example the withdrawal of staff and financial resources from the care of people with complex needs. Implementing these technologies therefore has ethical implications for human rights and civil liberties. Optional alternatives to long-term and/or restrictive care, in the context of practical difficulties involved in caring for those who represent a risk to themselves from wandering, demands rigorous exploration of pragmatic questions of morality, with reference to risk versus benefit strategies. (RH)

ISSN: 13607863

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Britain's secret shame : first episode; by British Broadcasting Corporation - BBC One. London: British Broadcasting Corporation - BBC, 2003, video (30m).

This is a series of five programmes (of 30 minutes each) which looks at the treatment of Britain's elderly population and uncovers stories of neglect, cruelty and financial abuse. Presenter, Sally Magnusson, meets some of the people affected - including the families and the carers - and asks if we are happy for our older people to be treated in this way and what can be done to protect vulnerable, elderly members of society. This series was first shown during May 2003 in the daytime schedule on BBC 1. (KJ)

Price: (not available)

Daily money management programs: a protection against elder abuse; by Lisa Nerenberg, Institute on Aging (United States); National Center on Elder Abuse - NCEA (United States). Washington, DC: National Center on Elder Abuse, 2003, 28 pp.

In the US, professionals who work with older people have long recognised that individuals who are unable to manage their finances are at risk of impoverishment, homelessness or institutionalisation. More recent has been recognition of problems of exploitation by unscrupulous family members, acquaintances and predators. This manual describes daily money management (DMM) programs, which can assist people who have difficulty in managing their personal financial affairs, for example help with paying bills and dealing with taxes. It describes how programs are organised and administered, the potential role of DMM in preventing elder abuse and neglect, and the challenges organisations face in providing the service. Profiles are included of some model DMM programs in the US. The publication was produced under a contract with the Institute on Aging for the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA). (RH)

From : www.elderabusecenter.org/pdf/publication//DailyMoneyManagement.pdf National Center on Elder Abuse, 1201 15th Street, NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20005-2842. Email: ncea@nasua.org Website: www.elderabusecenter.org/

Draft Mental Incapacity Bill: Volume 1: Report, together with formal minutes; by Lord Carter (Chairman), Joint Committee on the Draft Mental Incapacity Bill, House of Lords and House of Commons. London: The Stationery Office, 17 November 2003, 150 pp (HL Paper 189-I; HC 1083-I Session 2002-03).

The draft Mental Incapacity Bill was scrutinised by the Joint Committee, which considered more than 1200 written submissions and heard evidence from 61 witnesses. On the whole, the Committee endorses the principles and general direction of the draft Bill and its widely-supported aim of replacing common law uncertainties by a comprehensive statutory framework to define mental incapacity, and to help those lacking it to make their own decisions when they can and enable sound decisions to be made for them when they cannot. The report considers the draft Bill's main clauses on decision-making capacity, best interests, the "general authority", lasting powers of attorney, the Court of Protection, advance decisions to refuse treatment, linkage with the Mental Health Act/Bill, and codes of practice. Other subjects examined are protection against abuse

and exploitation, medical research, advocacy, resources, and access to information. The report notes that the draft Bill has provoked strong feelings, both positive and negative, and while sympathising with some of the anxieties expressed, the Committee believes many of them to be misplaced. (RH)

ISBN: 0104003197

Price: £16.50

From : TSO, PO Box 29, Norwich NR3 1GN. Download pdf (4/8/04): www.dca.gov.uk

Elder abuse: selected papers from the Prague World Congress on Family Violence; by Elizabeth Podnieks, Jordan I Kosberg, Ariela Lowenstein (eds).

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 15, no 3/4, 2003, 203 pp (whole issue).

This volume contains the papers and presentations by a distinguished expert international faculty to have been given at the Congress, but was subsequently cancelled. The volume is also dedicated to the memory of the late Gerry Bennett, who was General Secretary of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA). Papers cover issues including: grandparents and carers; financial abuse; the study of elder abuse within diverse cultures; forensic information and the prosecution of elder abuse; elder abuse awareness in faith communities; and older women and domestic violence. This issue of the Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect is co-published as a monograph by the Haworth Maltreatment & Trauma Press. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Elder abuse: selected papers from the Prague World Congress on Family Violence; by Elizabeth Podnieks, Jordan I Kosberg, Ariela Lowenstein (eds), World Congress on Family Violence (WCFV). Binghamton, NY: Haworth Press Inc, 2003, 214 pp.

This volume contains the papers and presentations by a distinguished expert international faculty which would have been given at the Elder Abuse Symposium of the Congress, but the Congress was subsequently cancelled. The volume is also dedicated to the memory of the late Gerry Bennett, who was General Secretary of the International Network for the Prevention of Elder Abuse (INPEA). Papers cover issues including: grandparents and carers; financial abuse; the study of elder abuse within diverse cultures; forensic information and the prosecution of elder abuse; elder abuse awareness in faith communities; and older women and domestic violence. This book has been co-published simultaneously as Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 15, no 3/4. (KJ/RH)

ISBN: 0789028242

Price: US\$29.95; hdbk US\$49.95

From : Haworth Maltreatment and Trauma Press, The Haworth Press Inc., 10 Alice St., Binghamton, NY 13904-1580, USA. <http://www.HaworthPress.com>

Elder mistreatment: abuse, neglect and exploitation in an aging America; by Richard J Bonnie, Robert B Wallace (eds), Panel to Review Risk and Prevalence of Elder Abuse and Neglect, Committee on National Statistics and Committee on Law and Justice, Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education, National Research Council (US). Washington DC: The National Academies Press, 2003, 552 pp.

It is estimated that between 1 and 2 million Americans aged 65+ have been injured, exploited or otherwise mistreated by someone on whom they depend for their care or protection. Preventive and remedial interventions in the US have been unsystematic, episodic and poorly evaluated. In recognition of these deficiencies, the National Institute on Aging requested the National Research Council, through the Committee on National Statistics, to establish a panel of experts to assess the current state of knowledge on elder mistreatment. The Panel's report presents a theoretical model; and covers the occurrence, risk factors, screening and case identification of elder mistreatment. One of the weaknesses identified relates to the evaluating interventions available. Appendices include an analysis of US state law on elder abuse and neglect. Background papers are presented on epidemiological assessment methodology; ethical and policy issues on research; clinical and medical forensics; financial abuse of older people in domestic settings; elder abuse in residential long-term care settings; and intervention lessons from child abuse and domestic violence initiatives. (RH)

ISBN: 0309084342

Price: US\$57.95

From : National Academies Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, NW, Lockbox 285, Washington DC 20055, USA.

Financial abuse and charging for care: the views of social work and legal professionals; by Bridget Penhale.

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 5, no 2, May 2003, pp 11-20.

This paper draws on findings from a study examining attitudes, practices and policy in relation to charging and assessing older people who were considering entering residential and nursing home care. Its focus is on

exploring the views of care managers and legal practitioners towards their work in relation to older people, finances and charging for long-term care. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

Financial crimes against the elderly; by Kelly Dedel Johnson, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), US Department of Justice. Washington, DC: Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), US Department of Justice, 2003, 74 pp (Problem-oriented guides for police: Problem-specific guides series, no 20).

20%-60% of adult Americans have been victims or attempted victims of consumer fraud; and possibly only one in ten thousand fraud victims report the crime to the authorities. This guide identifies and discusses two general categories for financial crimes against older people: fraud committed by strangers; and financial exploitation by relatives and caregivers. It describes how police in the US can measure the effectiveness of their efforts; and includes a summary of responses to financial crimes against older people. (RH)

ISBN: 1932582223

From : Full text available at: www.cops.usdoj.gov/mime/open.pdf?Item=963 U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, 1100 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20530.

A life-time of inequality: a structural analysis of housing careers and issues facing older private tenants; by Misa Izuhara, Frances Heywood.

Ageing and Society, vol 23, part 2, March 2003, pp 207-224.

Whilst most householders in England have become homeowners at the turn of the 21st century, some older people still struggle on low incomes in the less privileged privately rented sector. This article draws on research in "Harassment and abuse of older tenants in the private rented sector" by N Charlton et al (2003, forthcoming) to explore the relationship between the history of housing policy and provision with people's lifecourse histories of individuals, and reasons why some older people are in the private rented sector. The findings reveal how some older private tenants have experienced different types and degrees of harassment and abuse by their landlords, from verbal and financial abuse, to disrepair of property and illegal evictions. Both strands are brought together in looking beyond individual responsibility or culpability to the structural and lifecourse causes of the problems. People's housing choices and destinations are often shaped by a combination of their lifecourse circumstances and external (both economic and institutional) barriers. Where abuse is concerned, a two-tier tenancy system has made "regulated tenants" vulnerable to their landlords; the legal remedies are endemically inappropriate; the housing benefit system is a major source of tension between landlords and tenants; and the modernised private rented sector has allowed no place for those who want secure long-term homes. In summary, this article examines how the law, housing policy and the housing market combine to produce particular problems for older private tenants. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 0144686X

Links between the Public Guardianship Office and social services departments; by Barry Wilson, Hilary Brown, Sophie Burns.

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 5, no 2, May 2003, pp 38-46.

This paper explores the links between the Public Guardianship Office (PGO) and social services in relation to abuse and to local authority management of the finances of vulnerable people. It also reports a small-scale study of adult protection co-ordinators in social services departments (SSDs), which explored the nature of and contact between the two agencies in the context of adult protection inquiries. The authors explain how, as part of their care services, a number of local authorities act as receivers for their clients. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

A matter of life and death: [care home evictions and residential fees]; by Paul Burstow, Gary Fitzgerald, Glenys Jones (et al).

Community Care, no 1484, 7 August 2003, pp 28-30.

The deaths of older people after being evicted from care homes prompts debate on how to resolve the conflict between residential care providers and local authorities buying that care. Violet Townsend, 88, was moved out of Magdalan House, Gloucestershire in February 2003; the owners said the fees being paid for her were insufficient. She died a few days later. Winifred Humphrey, 102, died in similar circumstances in July 2003, after being forced to leave Bradley House rest home in Whitstable, Kent. Five experts suggest their preferred solutions. The Liberal Democrat MP, Paul Burstow, recommends an independent assessment of care home fee levels. Gary Fitzgerald, of Action on Elder Abuse, states that taxes or National Insurance (NI) must rise to fund adequate care. Glenys Jones, Director of Social Services, Sunderland puts the case for easily accessible financial

advocacy before admission and for all existing residents. The academic view from Jill Manthorpe is the need for local services such as intermediate care to work together with care managers. Ronnie Cairnduff, a care home owner and chairperson of Hampshire Care Association, says that the cost of care must be worked out on a national basis. (RH)
ISSN: 03075508

The mismanagement of the assets of older people: the concerns and actions of aged care practitioners in Queensland; by Cheryl Tilse, Jill Wilson, Deborah Setterlund.
Australasian Journal on Ageing, vol 22.1, March 2003, pp 9-14.
The types of financial abuse coming to the attention of aged care workers, their practice responses and the barriers to effective responses were explored in a postal survey of 159 aged care assessment team (ACAT) members, allied health professionals and other aged care workers across urban, regional and remote Queensland. Financial abuse is coming to the attention of a broad range of aged care workers, and takes a variety of forms with a consistent pattern being reported across the state and differing ethnic groups. Although a range of resources exists, one third of respondents reported limitations in their capacity to intervene appropriately. Further evaluation is needed of the effectiveness of current mechanisms, professional and community education, and additional support for workers seeking to intervene. (RH)
ISSN: 14406381

Misuse of older persons' assets by professionals: [conference paper], Australian Institute of Family Studies, Step Forward for Families: Research, Practice and Policy Conference, Melbourne, 12 February 2003: Symposium on Assets, Ageing and Abuse: Emerging Issues for Families; by Russell G Smith, Australian Institute of Criminology. [Canberra]: Australian Institute of Criminology, 2003, 20 pp.
Older people tend to have frequent contact with professional advisers including lawyers, accountants, financial planners and health care providers. This paper examines the risks faced by older Australians (age 65+) who have dealings with professional advisers in connection with their assets. It also reviews the various ways in which older people can deal with financial abuse and the problems that arise when taking official action to recover stolen property. (RH)
From : http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/other/smith_russell/2003-02-AIFS.pdf

Still in safe hands: financial protection; by Mick Collins.
The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 5, no 2, May 2003, pp 47-48.
In 2000, the National Assembly for Wales published its 'In safe hands' guidance on adult protection, equivalent to its English counterpart, 'No Secrets'. 'In safe hands' includes exemplars from some local authorities for others to follow, and this short paper notes those concerning financial protection. It also outlines the work of the advisory group established by the Welsh Assembly Government to monitor implementation progress, and to identify possible weaknesses in the guidance. (RH)
ISSN: 14668203
From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

Suspected financial abuse among cases administered by the PGO; by Hilary Brown, Sophie Burns, Barry Wilson.
The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 5, no 2, May 2003, pp 26-37.
The risk of financial abuse is a major concern for the Public Guardianship Office (PGO) and the Court of Protection. Master Lush (Master of the Court of Protection) has suggested that some 10-15% of cases brought to the Court involve some element of abuse or impropriety. The study reported here analysed case files identified by PGO staff as those in which abuse was a strong possibility. (RH)
ISSN: 14668203
From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

Trends in mortality rates comparing underlying cause and multiple cause coding in an English population 1979-1998; by Michael J Goldacre, Marie E Duncan, Paula Cook-Mozaffari (et al).
Journal of Public Health Medicine, vol 25, no 3, September 2003, pp 249-253.
Until recently, national coding and analysis of routine mortality statistics in most countries included only underlying cause of death. There were changes in the rules for selection and coding of underlying causes in England in 1984 and 1993. The authors report on trends in mortality rates in an English region (the former Oxford National Health Service Region) from 1979 to 1998, comparing multiple-cause and underlying-cause coded rates for individual diseases that were affected by coding changes. Among many others, these include pneumonia, venous thromboembolism, heart failure, respiratory diseases, distress syndrome, tuberculosis, diabetes, dementia, alcohol and drug abuse, epilepsy, multiple sclerosis, stroke, asthma, peptic ulcer,

appendicitis, and cancers of the breast, colon and prostate. Comparisons over time of mortality rates based on underlying cause alone will be misleading when the time period crosses years in which rules changed for selecting underlying cause. (RH)

What is financial abuse?; by Hilary Brown.

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 5, no 2, May 2003, pp 3-10.

In this paper, the meaning and use of the term 'financial abuse' is explored and new ways of looking at the phenomenon suggested. In particular, the paper looks at the interaction between financial abuse and neglect in the context of adults who lack capacity. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

The work of the PGO in protecting vulnerable people from financial abuse; by Sophie Burns, John Bowman.

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 5, no 2, May 2003, pp 21-25.

The research outlined in this article was commissioned by the Public Guardianship Office (PGO) to identify the risks and explore the safeguards needed to prevent the deliberate misappropriation of clients' funds. Specifically, the authors explain the role, remit and mechanisms available to the PGO in relation to the administration of the financial affairs of adults unable to manage their affairs. They outline findings of a review which evaluated of 51 case files, which suggests that in at least 4% of these abuse may have occurred. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

2002

Elder abuse: new approaches to an age-old problem; by Kathleen H Wilber, Erica K Nielsen.: National Academy on an Aging Society, Winter 2002, pp 1, 24-27.

Public Policy and Aging Report, vol 12, no 2, Winter 2002, pp 1, 24-27.

Since elder abuse achieved prominence as a social problem more than 20 years ago, the field has been plagued with inconsistent and shifting definitions. Elder abuse encompasses a diverse and unsavoury landscape, including: physical abuse; sexual abuse; emotional or psychological abuse; financial or material abuse; abandonment; neglect; and self-neglect. Because there has been no US national policy, states individually determine their own standards for what constitutes abuse, how vulnerable groups should be identified, who should be protected, and what form that protection should take. This article outlines the extent of the problem in the US, who are the perpetrators and victims, and unresolved issues. (RH)

ISSN: 10553037

Older people: [and the National Service Framework for Older People]; by Jill Manthorpe.

Research Matters: a digest of research in social services, issue 12, October 2001- April 2002, pp 38-42.

Older people need to be involved in the drawing up and implementing of plans for services, if the National Service Framework for Older People (NSF) is to make a positive difference in their lives. This review outlines the NSF's evidence base, and considers the key related topics of consultation and direct payments. It reports on research posing questions on finance and attitudes, which are indicative of the difficulties in implementing the NSF. It concludes with a review of recent articles from the US and the UK on elder abuse. (RH)

ISSN: 13630105

From : <http://www.community-care.co.uk>Subscriptions: (ref.

081)http://www.reedbusiness.com/products/research_matters.asp

Preventing or stopping harm to older people living at home; by Mary Lane.

Elder Law and Finance, vol 2, no 1, 2002, pp 11-15.

The law on autonomy, mental capacity and protection for vulnerable older people from abuse or neglect is outdated and needs reform. The Law Commission's report "Mental incapacity" (Law Com no 231, 1995) recommended the repeal of s47 of the National Assistance Act 1948 (removal from place of residence against a person's will), and of s135(1) and (3) of the Mental Health Act 1983 (police powers to enter premises to remove a mentally disordered person). This article outlines how the law operates, supported by information from Action on Elder Abuse which asserts that "freedom to choose is a higher priority than the elder's safety". (RH)

ISSN: 14737043

2001

Cretney & Lush on enduring powers of attorney; by Denzil Lush. 5th ed Bristol: Jordans, 2001, 296 pp.

This is the standard work on the subject, the main legislation being the Powers of Attorney Act 1971 and the Enduring Powers of Attorney Act 1985. Their texts are included in the Appendices, together with the related Rules and Regulations, and leading enduring powers of attorney cases. Chapters include: granting an enduring power of attorney; action required at onset of mental incapacity; the authority and powers of an attorney under an enduring power; the Court of Protection and enduring powers; revocation, disclaimer and termination of enduring powers; appointment of more than one attorney; protection of third parties; solicitors and enduring powers; trustees (and the Trustee Delegation Act 1999); and financial abuse. Recent developments highlighted include the introduction of the Court of Protection (Enduring Powers of Attorney) Rules 2001 and the closure of the Public Trustee Office and the transfer of its mental health work to the Public Guardianship Office. (RH)

ISBN: 0853087350

Price: £45.00

From : Jordan Publishing Ltd., 21 St Thomas Street, Bristol BS1 6JS.

A critical analysis of telemarketing fraud in a gated senior community; by Wendy Reiboldt, Ronald E Vogel.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 13, no 4, 2001, pp 21-38.

Fraudulent telemarketers have increasingly victimized older citizens (in this study, aged 56 and older). This US study tested key variables reported in the literature as being related to telemarketing victimization of older people. Data were collected from a large, gated, middle-class community (population 8197) reported to be highly targeted by telemarketing scams. Using a probability sample of 374 residents and rigorous follow-up techniques, the researchers found very few victims (25), and were not able to ascertain a cohesive victim profile. Only one variable (believing what a salesperson tells you over the phone is true) affected victimization. Respondents who believed what telemarketers told them was true were significantly more likely to be victimized. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Elder abuse: a survey of managers of residential care facilities in Wellington, New Zealand; by Mark Weatherall.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 13, no 1, 2001, pp 91-100.

The study's aim was to establish the occurrence of elder abuse in facilities providing residential care in Wellington, New Zealand. All licensed facilities providing residential care were contacted, and face to face interviews were conducted with 26 managers responsible for 27 facilities. 92% of the managers were able to identify at least one resident in the last year who had been subjected to elder abuse. For 31% of facilities, elder abuse was a factor in admission of at least one resident. The most frequently identified form of abuse was psychological, followed by financial and physical abuse. When asked to identify the person responsible for a particular instance of abuse, a spouse, child or another relative was nominated in 63% of instances. Services which arrange extra home support or respite care, were the most frequent contact for particular instances of abuse, followed by direct discussion with family and contact with the police. Although the Elder Abuse Program run by Age Concern New Zealand is well known to managers, their contacts with the Program were infrequent. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Elder abuse among clients and carers referred to the Central Coast ACAT: a descriptive analysis; by Patrick Livermore, Robert Bunt, Katrina Biscan.

Australasian Journal on Ageing, vol 20.1, March 2001, pp 41-47.

A descriptive study of elder abuse within the population referred to the Central Coast Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) (Wyang and Gosford Local Government Areas, New South Wales) between November 1996 and November 1997. Data indicated an elder abuse prevalence of 5.4%. Psychological abuse was the most common type of abuse. 75% of cases were identified as client abuse, and 25% as carer abuse. The type of abuse and abuse characteristics differed markedly between cases where the client was abused. Differences in abuser characteristics were also apparent when comparing financial abuse cases with non-financial abuse cases. Results are similar to those of previous Australian research around ACAT populations. The study confirms elder abuse as a significant issue of concern and the need for a co-ordinated response to the issue. (RH)

ISSN: 07264240

Japanese older people's perceptions of "elder abuse"; by Noriko Tsukada, Yasuhiko Saito, Toshio Tataru. *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, vol 13, no 1, 2001, pp 71-90.

The proportion of Japanese older people who have heard of elder abuse and their perceptions of elder abuse were examined, using data collected from a nationally representative sample of more than 4,000 Japanese older people in 1999. Approximately half had heard of elder abuse, among whom some 18% knew victims of elder abuse. Further, the definitions of elder abuse among these older people included psychological abuse, neglect, physical abuse and financial abuse. Based on these findings, it is strongly recommended that preventive measures as well as public education programmes be implemented to help prevent, detect and treat elder abuse in a timely manner. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Male victims of elder abuse: their experiences and needs; by Jacki Pritchard. London: Jessica Kingsley, 2001, 112 pp (Violence and abuse series).

Older men, like older women, may be victims of abuse. This book continues the author's research with abused women in three areas of northern England funded by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), published as "The needs of older women: services for victims of elder abuse and other abuse" (Policy Press, 2000). It draws on in-depth interviews in the same areas with twelve older men who have experienced abuse. The author describes the different kinds of abuse experienced by the men: financial, physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as physical and emotional neglect. Having established the needs of these abused men, practice guidelines are presented for both the initial assessment of need, and for good practice as regards their future safety, support from professional carers, and medical care. (RH)

ISBN: 1853029998

Price: £13.95

From : Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 116 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JB.

New laws for the regulation and funding of care; by Paul Ridout.

Elder Law and Finance, vol 1, no 2, July 2001, pp 38-43.

Legislation in the past three years has led to major changes in the provision of care in England and Wales, with similar enactments in Scotland. The Health Act 1999 extended powers of mutual co-operation between local authorities and NHS bodies in relation to the commissioning and delivery of care. The Care Standards Act 2000 introduced root and branch reform of rules relating to the regulation of social care and private and voluntary health care services in England and Wales. The Health and Social Care Act 2001 further promotes "joined-up" working between health and social services, and implements the government's response to recommendations on public funding made by the Royal Commission on Long Term Care. This article outlines their provisions with regard to registration, regulations, standards, inspection, management, qualifications for staff, public finance, and preventing elder abuse. (RH)

ISSN: 14737043

Nursing home deficiencies in the United States: a confirmatory factor analysis; by Joseph T Mullan, Charlene Harrington.

Research on Aging, vol 23, no 5, September 2001, pp 503-531.

This is a confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) of deficiencies in nursing homes obtained from the On-line Survey Certification and Reporting system (OSCAR), a national database on nursing home quality maintained by the US Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA). A major goal was to identify a core set of items that would reliably reflect a meaningful set of dimensions of problems in quality of care. Analysis suggests a model of eight underlying factors: quality of care, abuse, assessment, rights, environment, nutrition, pharmacy, and administration. 40 items are robust indicators for these eight dimensions of problems in quality of care. OSCAR data are a potentially valuable source of quality of care information; however, given random and systematic variability, some care in their use is required. (RH)

ISSN: 01640275

Patterns of elder abuse and neglect in an Illinois elder abuse and neglect provider agency: a comparative analysis; by Keren Patricia Dimah.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 13, no 1, 2001, pp 27-44.

The primary objectives of this study were: a) to examine patterns of substantiated elder abuse and neglect among blacks in one provider agency of the Illinois Elder Abuse and Neglect Program, and, b) to determine how those patterns differ between blacks (n=48) and non-blacks (n=59). With the exception of income and emotional abuse, African-American victims did not differ significantly from victims of other ethnic groups in demographic characteristics or their experience of physical abuse, neglect, confinement, deprivation and

financial exploitation. Approximately 53% black perpetrators were females and 57% of non-black perpetrators were males. About 65% of black abusers were informal caregivers and 54% of the non-black abusers were informal caregivers. Close to 96% of black male abusers and 88.9% of the black female abusers had black victims. Similarly, 97.1% of non-black male abusers and 100% of non-black female abusers had non-black victims. For older African-Americans, the findings have brought a closer understanding of patterns of abuse and neglect among a segment of the population that is rapidly expanding. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Protecting vulnerable elderly people from abuse; by Mary Lane.

Elder Law and Finance, vol 1, no 2, July 2001, pp 34-37.

Local authorities have a role in identifying and stopping abuse of older people by families or friends. This article presents accounts of how the law is applied to assist vulnerable people at risk from abuse of powers of attorney, or from potentially illegal conduct with regard to an individual's mental capacity. (RH)

ISSN: 14737043

Taking care of my parents' friends: non-kin guardians and their older female wards; by Judith C Barker, David King.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 13, no 1, 2001, pp 45-70.

Examination of a total of 472 probate court records for 1996 and 1997 in a Northern California county revealed that 26 (6%) cases involved non-kin, non-professional guardians, such as friends or neighbours. There is currently a very sparse literature on this less common but nonetheless important type of guardians who report a heightened sense of awareness and concern over possible accusations of elder abuse or neglect. Of these 26 guardians, eight were interviewed about how these relationships began, what the guardians do for their wards, what motivations and rewards guardians feel, and how fear of accusation about elder abuse shapes the relationship. All wards in the interview sample were female, aged 83 to 97 years, with a moderate sized estate. Most (75%) of the guardians were males who had known their wards since childhood, and who became involved as caregivers decades later. Caregiving initially involved limited assistance, mainly with finances, but soon moved to include a wider range of activities. Guardians assiduously and deliberately act in ways that document good intentions and honourable actions with respect to frail older wards and their estates. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

2000

Adult children of elderly parents who remarry: aetiology of domestic abuse; by Ariela Lowenstein, Pnina Ron.

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 2, no 4, November 2000, pp 22-32.

This research paper from Israel examines damaging family reactions to later-life remarriage. It describes a study based on qualitative data with 17 children of aged parents who had remarried and later reported their adult children to the social service agencies as abusers. An analysis of the interviews shows that the main cause of the abuse was financial and involved matters of inheritance, wills and the distribution of assets. The dynamics which lay behind this pattern of family behaviour are explored. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

Crime and older Australians: understanding and responding to crime and older people; by Adam Graycar, Marianne James, Australian Institute of Criminology. Canberra: Australian Institute of Criminology, 2000, 16 pp.

Since the 1970s, there has been an increase in concern about older people as victims of crime, and the assumption that older people were targets of crime and suffered substantial victimisation. This assumption has since been challenged. However, older people are at risk from: family members, friends and acquaintances who may assault or steal from them; strangers who may victimise them; commercial organisations or "white collar" criminals who could defraud them; and carers. This paper discusses crime and abuse, including: predatory crime; duty of care and relationship crime; and economic crime (e.g. financial mismanagement, fraud, and enduring power of attorney and guardianship issues). There are shorter discussions about fear of crime, and inter-sectoral responses to crime. This paper was presented at 'Family Futures: Issues in Research and Policy', the 7th Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference, Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney, 24-26 July 2000. (RH)

From : Australian Institute of Criminology GPO Box 2944 Canberra ACT, 2601, Australia.<http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences>

Crime and older Australians: understanding and responding to crime and older people: [paper presented at] Family Futures: Issues in Research and Policy, 7th Australian Institute of Family Studies Conference ... Sydney, 24-26 July 2000; by Adam Graycar, Marianne James, Australian Institute of Criminology. Canberra ACT: Australian Institute of Criminology, 2000, 16 pp.

As with other groups in the population (in Australia and elsewhere), older people are at risk from four main sources: family members, friends and acquaintances who may assault or steal from them; strangers who may victimise them; commercial organisations or "white collar" criminals who could defraud them; and carers with a "duty of care" relationship who may neglect or abuse them. This paper discusses three main issues. The first, crime and abuse, has three main sub-stories: predatory crime; duty of care and relationship crime; and economic crime (financial mismanagement, fraud, and issues around enduring power of attorney and guardianship). The other two issues, fear of crime and inter-sectoral responses (by agencies including social service departments and the police), are examined in less detail. (RH)

From : Australian Institute of Criminology GPO Box 2944 Canberra ACT, 2601, Australia. Weblink at: <http://www.aifs.gov.au/institute/afrc7/graycar-adam.html>

Elder abuse and case outcome; by Rosalie Wolf, Karl Pillemer.

Journal of Applied Gerontology, vol 19, no 2, June 2000, pp 203-220.

Case resolution, a common social service outcome measure, is investigated as it is applied to cases of elder abuse. An in-depth assessment and re-assessment (at 6 months) of 59 elder abuse cases revealed that resolved cases were more likely than unresolved cases to be associated with neglect, increased social support to the victim, reduction in stress, reduction in the interdependency of the victim and perpetrator, and change in the victim's living situation. For victims of psychological, physical or financial abuse as well as those victims who are not willing to accept services or change to their living arrangements, the analysis suggests that the level of future risk of abuse may be a more appropriate outcome measure than case resolution. (RH)

ISSN: 07334648

Elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation: risk factors and prevention strategies; by Namkee G Choi, James Mayer.

Journal of Gerontological Social Work, vol 33, no 2, 2000, pp 5-26.

Social workers and health care providers are the professionals most likely to be responsible for detecting signs of elder abuse and providing intervention and protective services. The authors use data from the adult protective services unit of Erie County, NY to discuss the complex nature of domestic elder maltreatment, identify risk factors for different types of maltreatment, and recommend prevention strategies. Specifically, they compare self-neglecting elders and those abused and/or neglected by others. Of the latter, they further compare risk factors for physical and emotional or psychological abuse and/or neglect with risk factors for financial exploitation only. Risk factors analysed included gender, age, living arrangements, poor health, mental health, cognitive deficits, social support, and alcohol abuse. As preventive strategies, they discuss case management services, caregiver support services, and alcohol or substance abuse screening treatment. (RH)

ISSN: 01634372

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Elder and dependent adult fraud: a sampler of actual cases to profile the offenders and the crimes they perpetrate; by Judith B Sklar.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 12, no 2, 2000, pp 19-32.

Fraud targeted at elder and dependent adults is largely committed by four different groups of perpetrators, each targeting its own unique assortment of crimes at vulnerable victims. The purpose of this article is to profile these four offender groups, identify the various crimes being committed, and provide some preventative tips and investigative tools to combat this growing area of fraud. Offender group profiles are compiled from summaries of actual cases prosecuted by the Santa Clara County District Attorney's Office in California. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Experiences and needs of adult protective services case managers when assisting clients who have companion animals; by Barbara W Boat, Juliette C Knight.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 12, no 3/4, 2000, pp 145-156.

Enhancing the safety and quality of life of adults who require protective services must frequently include consideration of their companion animals. Six Adult Protective Services (APS) case managers reported on their experiences with clients who had pets. Issues discussed included clients' neglect of themselves and their pets,

attachment to and loss of pets, abuse and threats to harm a pet, collecting or hoarding of animals, and staff encounters with aggressive animals. The case managers made recommendations concerning agency procedures, staff training and useful support services to offer staff and clients when companion animals are present. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Financial abuse of elderly persons: Part one: Prevention and recovery; by Dirik Jackson.

Elderly Client Adviser, July/August 2000, pp 6-11.

The sources of law required, when advising on problems of protecting the person with a disability from fraud and financial abuse, are outlined. (OFFPRINT.) (RH)

Financial abuse of elders and dependent adults: the FAST (Financial Abuse Specialist Team) approach; by Joan Virginia Allen.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 12, no 2, 2000, pp 85-92.

The Financial Abuse Specialist Team in Orange County, California, a partnership of professionals from diverse disciplines, volunteer their time to review cases of financial elder abuse and facilitate comprehensive service delivery. The team also advocates for legislative reform, educates the community about the problem, and trains professionals in how to recognize, prevent and resolve financial elder abuse. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Financial abuse of older people; by K Walsh, G C J Bennett.

The Journal of Adult Protection, vol 2, no 1, February 2000, pp 21-29.

Financial abuse may be defined as the theft or improper use of money or objects belonging to an older person. It is also referred to as material abuse, financial exploitation, fiduciary abuse, financial mistreatment and financial victimisation. This form of abuse is widely recognised to be an important but under-reported risk area for vulnerable adults, especially older people. This paper provides an introduction to relevant issues, indicators and remedies. It also highlights areas needing further attention both within the professional council and financial systems such as banking. (RH)

ISSN: 14668203

From : Website: <http://www.pavpub.com>

Forgotten victims of financial crime and abuse: facing the challenge; by Lisa Nerenberg.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 12, no 2, 2000, pp 49-74.

This article summarises the proceedings of four roundtable discussions which were sponsored by the US National Center on Elder Abuse and held in conjunction with a conference on financial crime and abuse. The discussions focused on four components of the legal system: local law enforcement, federal investigative and regulatory agencies, the civil justice system, and victim witness assistance programs. Participants were asked to describe their role in preventing financial crime and the challenges they face in doing so. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Forgotten victims of financial crimes and abuse: undoing undue influence; by Mary Joy Quinn.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 12, no 2, 2000, pp 9-18.

Undue influence has long been recognized within the legal profession and the courts, usually in the context of contested wills. The field of elder abuse and neglect is now beginning to focus on the issue as practitioners try to understand the actions of seemingly competent and capable elders who give away major assets or gifts sometimes to virtual strangers. Undue influence frequently accompanies other types of elder abuse and neglect, usually occurring when a close personal relationship exists. This paper describes the dynamics of undue influence, outlines the profiles of victims and abusers, and offers intervention and prevention strategies. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

In safe hands: implementing adult protection procedures in Wales; [and] In safe hands: update 2003; by National Assembly for Wales.: National Assembly for Wales, 2000, 190 pp.

This guidance addresses the need for the development of local multi-agency codes of practice based on a consistent framework for the protection of vulnerable adults across Wales. These should be co-ordinated locally by each local authority social services department but will also involve the police service, the health service and

will be of interest to the independent sector. These policies should also take account of the measures to provide greater protection to vulnerable or intimidated witnesses in the criminal justice system, as recommended in 'Speaking up for Justice'. That report recognised the need to improve the identification and reporting of crime against vulnerable adults in care settings and agrees that this can best be tackled through multi-agency working. This approach has been endorsed by the Home Office. The 2003 update includes sections on financial abuse and adult protection monitoring, and the Care Standards Inspectorate for Wales' (CISW) procedure for responding to the alleged abuse of vulnerable adults (replacing Appendix 3 in the 2000 guidance). (KJ/RH)

From : Download at:

http://wales.gov.uk/docrepos/40382/4038212/403821/403821/4038211/4038213/safe_hands.pdf?lang=en

Los Angeles County Fiduciary Abuse Specialist Team: a model for collaboration; by Susan J Aziz.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 12, no 2, 2000, pp 79-84.

The Fiduciary Abuse Specialist Team, sponsored by the County of Los Angeles Area Agencies on Aging, provides expert consultation and training to protective services and other practitioners in cases of elder financial abuse. Collaborative teams efforts facilitate prompt and well coordinated interventions. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Mortgage fraud prevention program: volunteer legal services program of the Bar Association of San Francisco; by Haydee I Alfonso.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 12, no 2, 2000, pp 75-78.

The Volunteer Legal Services Program of the Bar Association of San Francisco to address home equity fraud against older persons is described. Legal conditions that constitute mortgage fraud are explained, and a two-pronged approach to stopping home loss is presented. (RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

The National Telemarketing Victim Call Center: combating telemarketing fraud in the United States; by Susan J Aziz, Daniel C Bolick, Melodye T Kleinman (et al).

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 12, no 2, 2000, pp 93-98.

A collaborative program of WISE Senior Services, FBI, US Postal Inspectors, AT & T Wireless, the National Telemarketing Victim Call Center is staffed by members of the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). In addition to the 20,000 persons called the first year to potential victims targeted by fraudulent telemarketers, the newspaper, radio and television news generated by the program helped to bring the message to millions of seniors. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Notes from the field: observations in working with forgotten victims of personal financial crimes; by Debbie L Deem.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 12, no 2, 2000, pp 33-48.

This paper focuses on the forgotten victims of financial crimes. It describes the scope and nature of financial crime, the impact of this type of crime, and the need for services to assist victims and their families. It further describes promising approaches to meeting the service needs of financial crime victims and ensuring equal access and protections to members of this underserved group. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Older people [and social exclusion]; by Jill Manthorpe.

Research Matters, special issue, August 2000, pp 30-32.

The link between growing old and declining income is well documented. But there are other factors that can increase older people's poverty and feelings of social exclusion that are less well documented. First, ethnicity is examined in two reviews: "Ethnic inequality in later life: variation in financial circumstances by gender and ethnic group" by Jay Ginn and Sarah Arber (in: Education and Ageing, 2000); and "Health and social care needs in minority communities" by Ken Blakemore (in: Health and Social Care in the Community, 2000). A second cause of inequality is discussed in the Audit Commission's "Charging with care", which notes disparities in local authorities' levels of charging for services. Disability, another reason for exclusion, is discussed in "Losing sight in Ryedale: routes to rehabilitation" by J Crookes and colleagues (1999). Other examples of social exclusion discussed are the older homeless, prisoners, and consequences of elder abuse. (RH)

ISSN: 13631015

Oregon's efforts to reduce elder financial exploitation; by Aileen P Kaye, Geoffrey Darling.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 12, no 2, 2000, pp 99-102.

Several programmes have been undertaken in Oregon to reduce financial abuse. They include the production of a multi-media training kit by the Oregon's Attorney General's Task Force with funding from the US Department of Justice, creation of an "Elder Financial Exploitation Prevention Program" that educates seniors "at the scene of the crime," and distribution of devices to assist older people in ending unwanted phone calls and direct mail solicitations. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Perceptions of adult protective services workers of the support provided by criminal justice professionals in a case of elder abuse; by B E Blakely, Ronald Dolon.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 12, no 3/4, 2000, pp 71-94.

Results of a 1997 survey of adult protective services workers in 43 US states are summarised. The survey yielded ratings of police and victim assistants in detecting and treating elder abuse, and estimates of the likelihood that criminal justice professionals would provide ten forms of assistance in cases of elder abuse. Respondents also reported the most helpful services supplied by criminal justice professionals, those most difficult to obtain and overall ratings of such professionals in cases of elder abuse. Findings provide insights about relationships between adult protective services workers and criminal justice professionals. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Ventura County District Attorney's Senior Crime Prevention Program; by Jose G Velasco.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 12, no 2, 2000, pp 103-106.

The Senior Crime Prevention Unit of the District Attorney's office in Ventura County, California, carries out an intensive education and public awareness campaign to alert older people to scams and frauds, and offers crime prevention tips. The goal of the Program is prevention and successful prosecution. Since the Unit's inception, referrals to the prosecution unit have increased. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

1999

Abuse of older people: crime or family dynamics?; by Pamela Kinnear, Adam Graycar, Australian Institute of Criminology. Canberra: electronic format, May 1999, 6 pp.

Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice, no 113, May 1999, 6 pp.

In Australia, about 4.6% of older people are victims of physical, sexual or financial abuse, perpetrated mostly by family members and those who are in a duty of care relationship with the victim. This paper discusses whether criminal acts such as assault, sexual assault and theft should be redefined as abuse. It examines intervention issues in domestic violence and child abuse, and points out that older persons in abusive situations have virtually no choices, because the alternative (moving to an institution) is what they desire least. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08178542

From : Australian Institute of Criminology GPO Box 2944 Canberra ACT, 2601, Australia.<http://www.aic.gov.au>

Awareness of elder abuse among community health and social care staff in Northern Ireland: an exploratory study; by John McLaughlin, Helen Lavery.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 11, no 3, 1999, pp 53-72.

This article reports on one of the first surveys of multidisciplinary staff awareness of elder abuse in this region of the United Kingdom (UK). Forty staff from eight professional groups in the Southern Health and Services Board area were surveyed about their knowledge of elder abuse, the types of help they thought they could offer the abused and the abuser, and the level of abuse in their current caseload. 35% of respondents had cases of physical, psychological, financial, and sexual abuse, as well as care-giver neglect of people aged 65 and over in their caseloads. The findings suggest that while staff had differing levels of awareness of elder abuse, further training is necessary. (RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Bags of money: the financial abuse of older people: edited papers from a conference organised by Action on Elder Abuse and Liverpool Directorate of Social Services on 22 October 1998, Liverpool; by Jill Manthorpe (ed), Action on Elder Abuse; Liverpool Directorate of Social Services. London: Action on Elder Abuse, 1999, 33 pp (Working paper no 4).

Following consultation on the Lord Chancellor's Office Green Paper, "Who decides? Decision making for people who lack mental capacity", no action had been taken to introduce legislation. This Action on Elder Abuse conference was held to highlight continuing problems and to explore possible changes. The conference aimed to: give an overview of financial abuse, its prevalence, and current legal protective mechanisms; examine the problems which exist with current protective mechanisms; demonstrate good practice; and highlight the current actions which can be taken when abuse has occurred. The role of the statutory, independent and voluntary sector and the legal system to assist older people who have been abused was examined. Speakers at the conference were Denzil Lush, Gordon Ashton, Jill Manthorpe and Terri Whittaker. (RH)

ISBN: 0953506010

From : Action on Elder Abuse, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

Dependency, cultural identification, and elder abuse among Americans of Mexican heritage; by Mary Lou Franco, Tara Gray, Peter Gregware (et al).

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 11, no 3, 1999, pp 37-52.

Professional caregivers working with older Americans of Mexican ancestry in nursing homes or home health care agencies were interviewed about the impact of dependency and cultural identification on elder abuse and its reporting. They described abusers who were often dependent in terms of living arrangements and finances on the elders they abused. The caregivers who identified as "Hispanic" rather than "Mexican-American" said that people in their culture would be more likely to report abuse. Among the caregivers who were themselves Americans of Mexican heritage, this was the case: those who identified as "Hispanic" rather than "Mexican-American" were twice as likely to report abuse, even though far fewer had direct knowledge of the abuse. (KJ/RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Dependent on the kindness of strangers: professional guardians for older adults who lack decisional capacity; by S L Reynolds, L D Carson.

Ageing & Mental Health, vol 3, no 4, November 1999, pp 301-310.

For older people who need a guardian and do not have family or friends to act as such, professional guardians fill this role in this study of two counties in Florida. Recent cases of financial exploitation by professional guardians have sparked criticism of this profession, but have not been informed by empirical data. In a study of 406 court files between 1983 and 1996, the authors examined the characteristics of wards, guardians, and guardianship practices to determine whether having a professional guardian had a negative effect on wards, in terms of rights removed, the amount of assets spent, and restrictiveness of residential placement. Although there were no significant differences between the numbers of rights removed or depletion of assets, those wards who had family guardians were more likely to be living in the community than those with professional guardians. (RH)

ISSN: 13607863

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Elder abuse in the Netherlands; by National Support Centre Elder Abuse - Netherlands.

EAGLE Journal, vol 7, issue 5, Apr/May 1999, pp 12-13.

Older people in the Netherlands are being confronted with physical abuse, emotional violence, financial exploitation, sexual abuse and neglect. This article is a concise outline of what is known about elder abuse in the Netherlands, and what is being done with regard to prevention and care. The National Support Centre Elder Abuse was set up in 1996 as a project of the Netherlands Institute of Care and Welfare (NIZW). Other organisations referred to include: the Free University of Amsterdam, which began a study in 1993; and the Reporting Centres of Elder Abuse, created in 1993. (RH)

ISSN: 1360239X

Elder abuse work: best practice in Britain and Canada; by Jacki Pritchard (ed). London: Jessica Kingsley, 1999, 704 pp.

The abuse, neglect and exploitation of older people in community and residential care settings is increasingly being recognised and dealt with as a serious social concern in the UK. In Canada, where the issue has had a much higher profile, different forms of practice have developed. "Elder abuse work" gives an overview of the developments and issues in both countries. Chapters analyse research, theory, policy development, legislation,

practice issues, resources and new ideas. Specific aspects covered include clinical practice developments, cross-agency co-ordination, self-help for older people, awareness raising, financial abuse, and the medical and police perspectives. Innovative models for abuse intervention which have been generated in Canada are described and assessed. Also included are ideas for training and tested training exercises. Contributors are drawn from voluntary and statutory agencies, as well as from the academic world. (RH)

ISBN: 1853027049

Price: £27.50

From : Jessica Kingsley Publishers, 116 Pentonville Road, London N1 9JB.

Elder abuse: feminist and ageist perspectives; by Susan J Crichton, John B Bond, Carol D H Harvey (et al).

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 10, nos 3/4, 1999, pp 115-130.

Elder abuse research reports little consensus regarding gender and age. This project examined 99 incidents of elder abuse by an adult child, and 86 incidents of elder abuse by a spouse, and compared the groups using the variables of gender, age and incidents. The results are discussed from a feminist and age perspective. Differences between the groups were found, namely that elder abuse by an adult child is most likely to be financial abuse. Traditional ideas about women and men, as well as ideas about the nature of the old were found to be factors in elder abusive relationships. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Examining the gray zones in guardianship and involuntary protective services laws; by Maria R Schimer, Georgia J Anetzberger.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 10, nos 3/4, 1999, pp 19-38.

Multidisciplinary focus groups were convened in three geographically diverse areas of Ohio, Canada, to compare the application of guardianship and adult protective services interventions in the lives of vulnerable adults. Results suggest that there is general agreement in understanding the concepts of "incapacity" and "incompetence". Professional differences in value orientation were found that may affect how these concepts are applied in given cases. Regional differences in modes of assessment, resource availability, and intervention style were found. A decision-making grid is presented to assist in the examination when one or both forms of voluntary intervention are appropriate. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Figuring out abuse; by Claudine McCreadie, Leo Quigley.

Community Care, no 1258, 4-10 February 1999, pp 24-25.

Although accurate information concerning adult abuse and particularly elder abuse remains sparse, the problem is now being acknowledged. An experiment in Sheffield on methods of recording abuse makes data available for the first 100 cases of alleged abuse investigated under joint agency procedures. Different types of abuse were reported, with 55% of cases involving one type of abuse, most commonly physical abuse, followed by sexual abuse, then financial abuse. Two or more types of abuse were common, with emotional abuse and neglect most likely to occur in conjunction with another form of abuse. The monitoring exercise used three versions of a form to collect data: the first two had few questions about the alleged abuser. The latest version asks for the care management category of the alleged abuser, if applicable, and details of additional problems of the abuser: such problems are relevant to understanding the situation of the problem of the abused person. (RH)

ISSN: 03075508

The financial abuse of mentally incompetent older adults: a Canadian study; by John B Bond, Rosemarie Cuddy, Gloria L Dixon (et al).

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 11, no 4, 1999, pp 23-38.

The results of a pilot study on the financial abuse of mentally incompetent older Canadians are reported. The study's objectives were to: establish the incidence of suspected financial abuse among the clientele of the Office of Public Trustee, Province of Manitoba; identify the characteristics of mentally incompetent older adults most at risk; and identify indicators of financial abuse. Approximately 20% of the cases opened in a one year period were under suspicion of abuse. Findings were consistent with those of other research projects on elder abuse, in general, showing an over-representation of women over the age of eighty as victims of financial abuse. Unpaid personal care home bills when money should have been available was the most common indicator. In addition to providing a list of indicators of financial abuse that are of potential use to professionals devising prevention programmes, practical implications for service providers are presented. (KJ/RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Financial exploitation of elders: analysis of risk factors based on county adult protective services data; by Namkee G Choi, Deborah B Kulick, James Mayer.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 10, nos 3/4, 1999, pp 39-62.

While all types of elder abuse and neglect are serious problems affecting thousands of vulnerable older people, financial exploitation has especially serious implications for the economic well-being and quality of life of victims, because they may be deprived of their life savings and assets, and thus their economic foundation for independence. In this US study, data from case files of a county adult protective services (APS) programme were analysed to identify risk factors associated with financial exploitation and mismanagement by elders. Those who were financially exploited were, on average, in their late 70s, and tended to be cognitively impaired. Owner-occupiers were especially vulnerable; and exploitation and financial mismanagement often occurred together. Some 60% of perpetrators were relatives, mostly adult children; the rest were not related to their victims. Implications for interventions include case management for frail, cognitively impaired older people; preventive educational programmes; and ongoing collaboration among adult protective services, financial institutions, and law enforcement agencies. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Fraud and financial abuse of older persons; by Russell G Smith, Australian Institute of Criminology. Canberra: electronic format, October 1999, 6 pp.

Trends & Issues in Crime and Criminal Justice, no 132, October 1999, 6 pp.

The author examines the prevalence, nature, and impact of fraud and financial abuse against older people in Australia. In one of the studies reported, relatives were the more likely perpetrators of fraud; and one area requiring scrutiny is the use of enduring power of attorney. The development of new technologies for purchasing goods and services (e.g. the internet) creates potential for fraud, as do traditional areas in health care, accommodation services and investment services. This paper lists prevention and control strategies that include legislation, law enforcement, education and information, and enhanced reporting. (RH)

ISSN: 08178542

From : Australian Institute of Criminology GPO Box 2944 Canberra ACT, 2601, Australia. <http://www.aic.gov.au>

Money worries; by Jill Manthorpe.

OpenMind, no 99, September/October 1999, pp 10-11.

There is much evidence that people who are not able to look after their own finances are not being adequately safeguarded from financial abuse. A National Audit Office (NAO) report indicates that the system fails at a number of levels. A study from Northern Ireland highlights shortcomings of the appointee system, a formal procedure for transferring responsibility and accountability where the benefits claimant is unable to act. The enduring powers of attorney system seems to provide a comprehensive and tighter system than less formal methods, but the NAO report expressed concern that financial abuse could be occurring in such instances, too. (RH)

Psychological distress in victims of elder mistreatment: the effects of social support and coping; by Hannie C Comijs, Brenda W J H Penninx, Kees P M Knipscheer (et al).

The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological Sciences and Social Sciences, vol 54B, no 4, July 1999, pp P240-245.

A study population of 77 older people who were victims of chronic verbal aggression, physical aggression, or financial mistreatment during the previous year, and a reference group of 147 of older people who had not been mistreated were selected from the Amsterdam Study of the Elderly (AMSTEL) for this study. All were over 65 and living independently in the community. Social support, coping style, mastery and perceived self-efficacy were measured by means of a standardised home interview. Psychological distress was measured by means of the General Health Questionnaire (GHQ-12). Victims of mistreatment had significantly higher levels of psychological distress than non-victims. Social support showed a favourable effect on the level of psychological distress in victims, but not in non-victims; victims receiving more social support showed less psychological distress. A lower sense of mastery, a negative perception of self-efficacy, and a passive reaction pattern were associated with higher levels of psychological distress in victims as well as non-victims. These factors could be of use in developing intervention programmes for abused older people. (RH)

ISSN: 10795014

A qualitative examination of the similarities and differences of elder abuse definitions among four groups: nursing home directors, nursing home employees, police chiefs and students; by Brian K Payne, Bruce L Berg, Kristin Byars.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 10, nos 3/4, 1999, pp 63-86.

A common claim found in the elder abuse literature is that different groups offer varying definitions of elder abuse. Very little research, however, has examined what these differences are, and how they manifest themselves in different settings. To fill this void, this research examines the definitions of elder abuse provided by respondents from four groups in the Commonwealth of Virginia: 54 nursing directors, 132 nursing home employees, 64 police chiefs, and 172 sociology or criminal justice students. Results of standard thematic content analysis examining definitions of elder abuse show significant differences, with four general themes emerging: abuse type themes, crime centred themes, victim centred themes, and general semantic themes, including "taking advantage". In particular, nursing home directors are more likely to define elder abuse from an ethical perspective, whereas police chiefs and students are more likely to define elder abuse from a legalistic perspective. Combining the main themes and concepts provides the following definition for elder abuse: "Any criminal, physical or emotional harm or unethical taking advantage that negatively affects the physical, financial or general well being of an older person." (RH)

ISSN: 08946566

From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

A telephone counseling program for elder abuse in Japan; by Yuko Yamada.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 11, no 1, 1999, pp 105-112.

In the 21st century, one quarter of the Japanese population will be 65 years and older. Not only is the duty to report elder abuse not defined by the law but there is no special organisation with clinical facilities to respond to incidents of elder abuse. A report in 1994 by the Society for the Study of Elder Abuse (SSEA) showed the need for definitive social measures to prevent elder abuse. Based on that research, SSEA organised the Japan Elder Abuse Prevention Center and initiated a volunteer telephone counselling service. Within an 18 month period, 209 cases were handled of which 150 concerned abuse, neglect, and financial exploitation. Callers were more often the older person or the daughter than other relatives or outsiders. Sons were the more prevalent perpetrators, and financial abuse the most common type of mistreatment reported. Recommendations include new laws and social welfare policies that adapt to the changes in an ageing society. (AKM)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Tension and conflict factors in second marriages as causes of abuse between elderly spouses; by Ariela Lowenstein, Pnina Ron.

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 11, no 1, 1999, pp 23-46.

Remarriage among older people in Israel has been growing in recent years, yet, it is a topic that has not been widely studied. This study aimed to examine the reasons for abuse in second marriages through the reports of the victims, comparing their experiences to second marriages where spouse abuse was not detected. Data was derived from a pilot study on elder abuse by family members, the first of its kind in Israel. From a population of 270 older persons, who were identified by welfare and health professionals as victims of abuse by family members, 12 persons who had remarried after the death of a spouse were interviewed. The findings showed that the decision to establish joint residence, financial arrangements, issues of power and control, and memories of the deceased spouse were the primary factors for abuse in the second marriages. The study concluded that these factors create situations of tension and conflict between married partners that lead to neglect in caregiving, emotional and mental abuse, verbal and physical violence, and financial exploitation. (AKM)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

The victimology of fraud: paper presented at the Restoration for Victims of Crime Conference convened by the Australian Institute of Criminology in conjunction with Victims Referral and Assistance Service and held in Melbourne, September 1999; by Richard M Titus, Australian Institute of Criminology; Victims Referral and Assistance Service (Australia). [Canberra]: Australian Institute of Criminology, 1999, 13 pp.

Richard Titus of the US National Institute of Justice presented a paper covering "personal fraud": who the victims are in the US; victim facilitation and other risk factors; the types of frauds perpetrated; and preventing personal fraud victimization. (RH)

From : Download at: <http://www.aic.gov.au/conferences/rvc/titus.pdf>

You're never too old to hurt; by Action on Elder Abuse. London: Action on Elder Abuse, 1999, Leaflet.
This leaflet gives details about contacting Action on Elder Abuse's confidential telephone help-line, Elder Abuse Response (0808 808 8141), which should be called if there is concern about an older person being abused, neglected, or financially exploited. (RH)
From : Action on Elder Abuse, Astral House, 1268 London Road, London SW16 4ER.

1998

Elder abuse in the community: prevalence and consequences; by Hannie C Comijs, Anne Margriet Pot, Johannes H Smit (et al).

Journal of the American Geriatrics Society, vol 46, no 7, July 1998, pp 885-888.

The prevalence of chronic verbal aggression, physical aggression, financial mistreatment, and neglect was assessed in a community-based sample of 1797 people living independently in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. In a follow-up study one year later, the victims were questioned again about the background and consequences of the abuse. The 1-year prevalence of elder abuse was 5.6%. The prevalence of various types of abuse was: verbal aggression 3.2%; physical aggression 1.2%; financial mistreatment 1.4%; and neglect 0.2%. Most victims reported emotional reactions immediately after the abuse. Seven of 36 victims experienced physical or financial damage as a consequence of the abuse. More than 70% of the victims were able to stop the abuse, either by themselves or with the help of others. This study established the rate of occurrence and the consequences of elder abuse in the Netherlands. Elder abuse is more widely spread if not only close relatives or people with whom the older person lives are considered as possible perpetrators but other familiar and trusted people are considered as well. Intervention should be focused on the roughly 40% of victims who were not able to stop the abuse. (RH)

ISSN: 00028614

Older people at home: practical issues; by Graham Mulley, Neil Penn, Eileen Burns (eds). London: BMJ Books, 1998, 136 pp.

This book focuses on some of the key social, cultural and community aspects of elderly care that general practitioners (GPs) have identified as being especially problematic in their day to day work. It follows a problem-based approach, with special emphasis on the needs of older people living at home. Topics covered include: loneliness; elder abuse; older people from ethnic minority groups; legal aspects of mental incapacity; what an old age psychiatrist does; rehabilitation; aids to compliance with medication; public transport; money problems and financial assistance; residential care homes; housing; carers; community health services; community care and social services; and community care and the independent sector. The articles in this book were previously published in the British Medical Journal in 1996, under the title 'Caring for Older People'. (AKM)

ISBN: 0727912585

Price: £16.95

From : BMJ Books, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

Positive steps: using the Court of Protection to prevent financial abuse of older people; by Ruth Eley. Brighton: Pavilion Publishing, March 1998, pp 29-32.

The Mental Health Review, vol 3, issue 1, March 1998, pp 29-32.

The author describes how Liverpool Social Services Department (SSD) carries out its responsibilities in respect of service users deemed by the Court of Protection as incapable of managing their own affairs. In the absence of any official guidelines, procedures have been developed to ensure financial accountability and to creatively promote the interests of the individuals concerned. The mental health legislation requires redrafting: powers of the 1959 Act were not properly transferred to the Mental Health Act 1983. (RH)

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From : Pavilion Publishing (Brighton) Ltd, 8 St George's Place, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 4GB.

Religiosity buffers effects of some stressors on depression but exacerbates others; by William J Strawbridge, Sarah J Shema, Richard D Cohen (et al).

The Journals of Gerontology Series B: Psychological sciences and social sciences, vol 53B, no 3, May 1998, pp S118-S126.

Although religiosity is protective for mortality and morbidity, its relationship with depression is unclear. This US Study used the 1994 Alameda County Study survey of 2,537 subjects aged 50-102 to analyse associations between two forms of religiosity and depression as well as the extent to which religiosity buffers relationships between stressors and depression. Non-organisational religiosity included prayer and importance of religious and spiritual beliefs; organisational religiosity included attendance at services and other activities. Findings

showed that non-organisational religiosity had no association with depression; organisational religiosity had a negative relationship that weakened slightly with the addition of health controls. Both forms of religiosity buffered associations with depression for non-family stressors, such as financial and health problems. However, non-organisational religiosity exacerbated associations with depression for marital problems, abuse, and caregiving. The authors concluded that religiosity may help those experiencing non-family stressors, but may worsen matters for those facing family crises. (AKM)

ISSN: 10795014

Risk indicators of elder mistreatment in the community; by Hannie C Comijs, Johannes H Smit, Anne Margriet Pot (et al).

Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect, vol 2, no 4, 1998, pp 67-76.

This study examined risk indicators of chronic verbal aggression, physical aggression, and financial mistreatment in a population-based sample of 1,797 independently living older people in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. Included were sociodemographic characteristics, physical and psychological health, and functional capacity. The data were collected using standardised interviews that took place in respondents' homes. The results showed that chronic verbal aggression was associated with an older person living with a partner or other(s), and in poor or bad health. Physical aggression was associated with an older person living with a partner or other(s) and having depressive symptoms. Finally, financial mistreatment was associated with being male, living alone, being partly dependent in instrumental activities of daily living (IADLs), and having depressive symptoms. The results indicate that the risk indicators of victims of financial mistreatment differ from those of chronic verbal aggression and physical aggression, suggesting that financial mistreatment may occur more often as a single form of abuse, whereas verbal and physical aggression may more frequently occur together. (RH)

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From : <http://www.tandfonline.com>

Supporting families: a consultation document; by Jack Straw (chairman), Ministerial Group on the Family, Home Office. London: The Stationery Office Group [on behalf of the Home Office], 1998, 56 pp.

This consultation document, on which comments are invited by 31 January 1999, concentrates on five areas where government believes it could make a difference to families: provision of access, advice, support and services; improving financial support; helping to balance work and home; strengthening marriage and reducing the risks of family breakdown; and tackling more serious problems such as domestic violence. The role suggested for grandparents is likely to be of most interest. Question 7 of the consultation seeks views on the support which might be provided by grandparents including: the best way to involve them in children's education, and how best to involve older volunteers in schools; best practice for grandparents as foster carers; involvement of the health visitor; and the need to consider wider family needs when allocating housing. A section on domestic violence includes recognition of the problem of elder abuse. Question 20 seeks views on ways to tackle more serious family problems, and how local and national awareness campaigns on domestic violence might best be developed. The summary is also published separately as a leaflet. (RH)

Price: £5.00

From : TSO, Publications Centre, PO Box 276, London SW8 5DT. (Comments to: Katharine Bramwell, Voluntary and Community Unit, Room 230, Horseferry House, Dean Ryle Street, London SW1P 2AW.)

Under-protection and over-protection: managing the risk of financial abuse; by Jill Manthorpe, Greta Bradley. Breakthrough, vol 2, no 1, 1998, pp 35-43.

This article focuses on the issue of financial abuse, arguing that this has been comparatively neglected in work with users of mental health services. Using a case history approach, it discusses the concept and definitions of financial abuse and the perspectives of practitioners working in community support services. Issues of gender and mental capacity or incapacity are raised and the discussion is placed in the context of current service organisations within the UK. (OFFPRINT) (RH)

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