

Protecting Older Adults Interweaving Formal & Informal Responses to Elder Abuse

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Responding to Elder Abuse & Neglect (EAN)

- Background
- General points
- Issues in responding
- Protection & prevention
- Intervention types
- European perspectives & responses
- Future possibilities



Background

- Global phenomenon, historical perspectives
- Recent recognition, increasing concern
- Community care & professionals
- Demography
- Medical advances & technology
- Advocacy and rights
- Changing social structures



General points

- Definitional issues
- Lack of awareness of abuse
- Detection & identification problems
- Differing histories & trajectories
- NGO development
- Education & training



Issues in responding to EAN

- An Aging issue?
- A complication of caregiving?
- Family Violence perspective
 - Prevention, protection, punishment
- Apparent tensions:
 - Service & welfare orientation
 - Justice & criminalisation orientation



Protection & prevention (1)

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



Protection & prevention (2)

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



Types of Intervention

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



Principles of Assessment

- Assessment of need
 - Holistic but abuse-focussed
 - Assessment or investigation?
- Care plan
 - Protection or safety planning
- Risk assessment & management
- Protective responsibility



European perspectives

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



European Responses

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



Future possibilities

- Intervention studies
 - Model projects & evaluation studies
- Research on effectiveness & impact
 - Of mistreatment
 - Of interventions
- Specialist teams & practitioners?
- Individualised approaches?
- European-wide approach?
- Research & development



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Finally.....

- Thanks for listening!