



6 May 2009

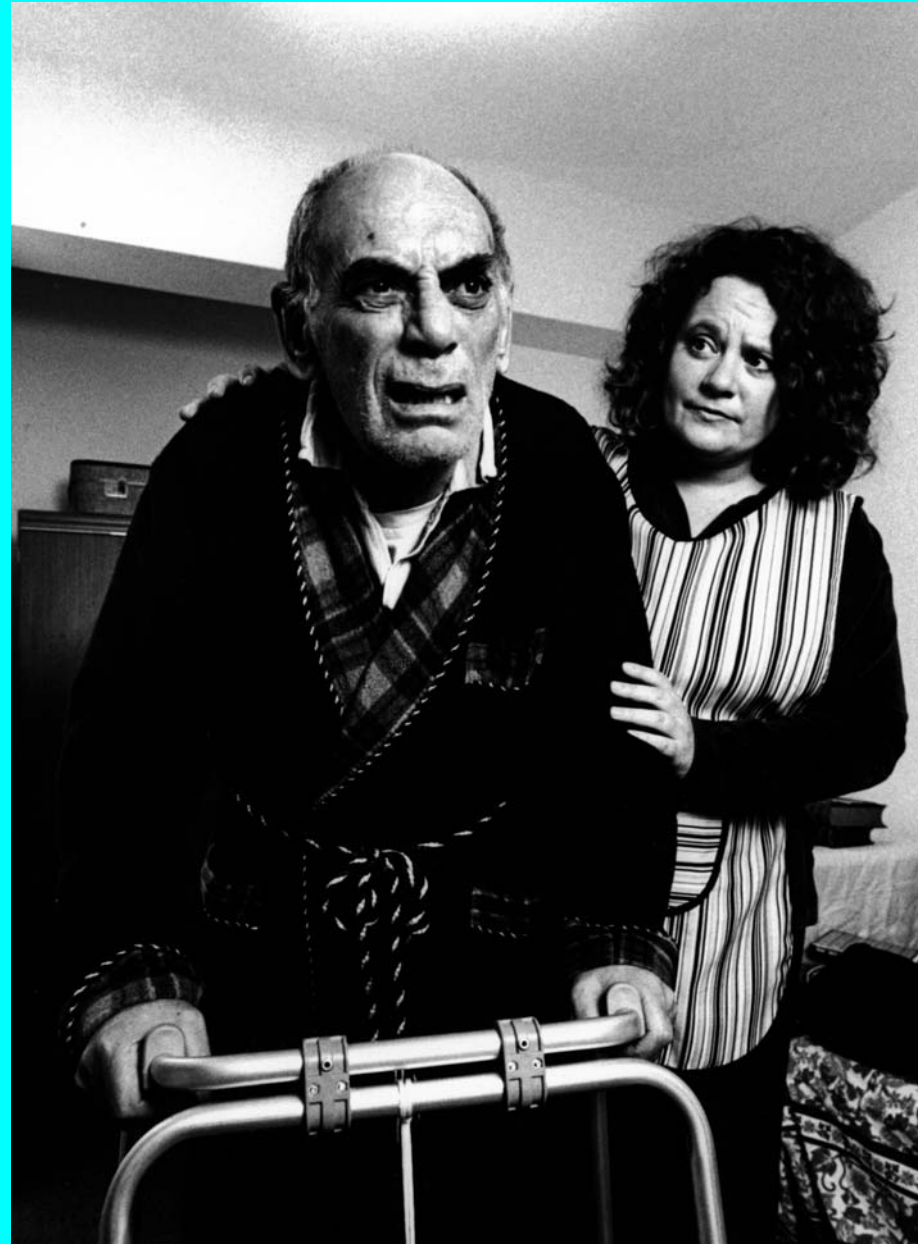
# Action on Elder Abuse

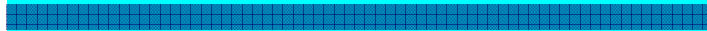
**UKHCA 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
SCOTLAND**



## Abuse is...

*'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....*

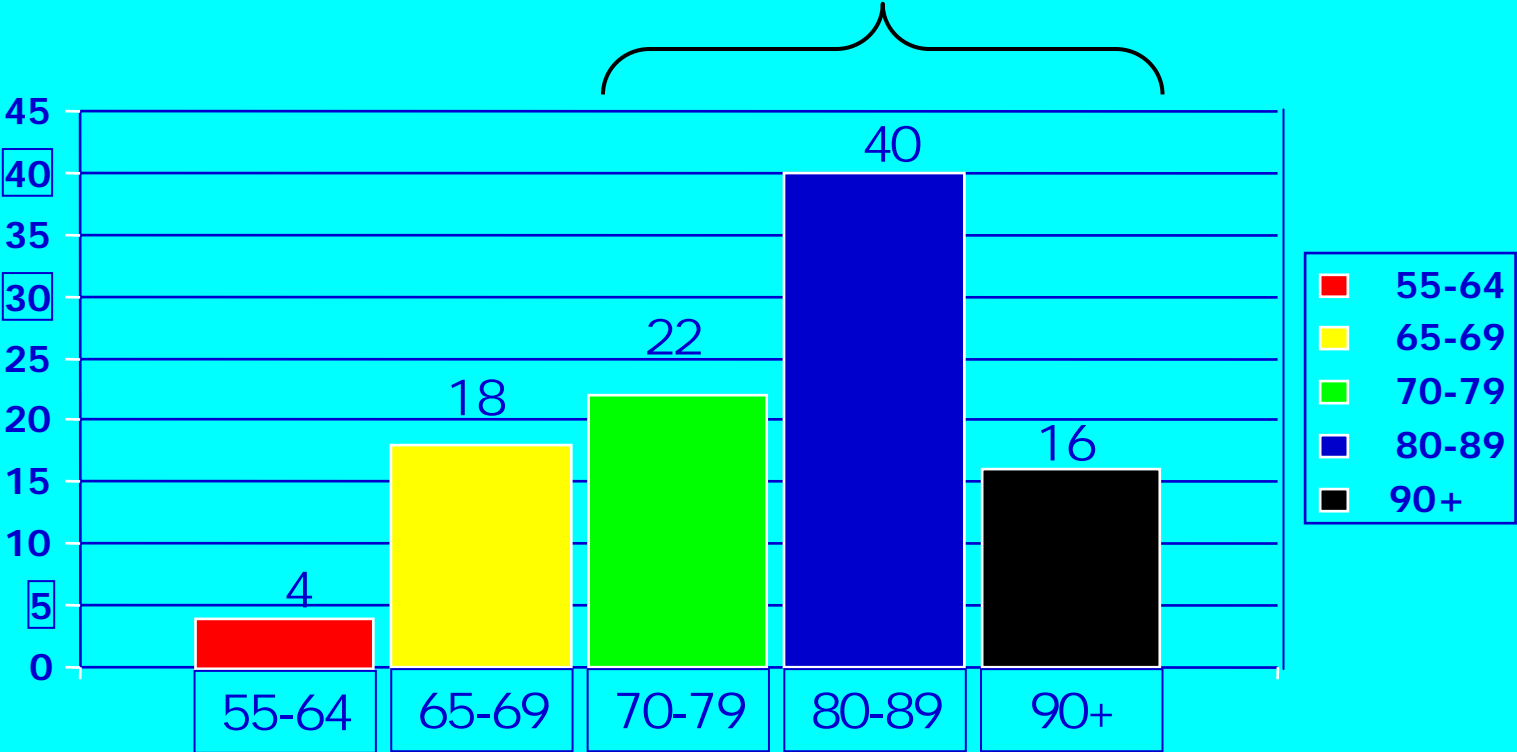






# Age of victim

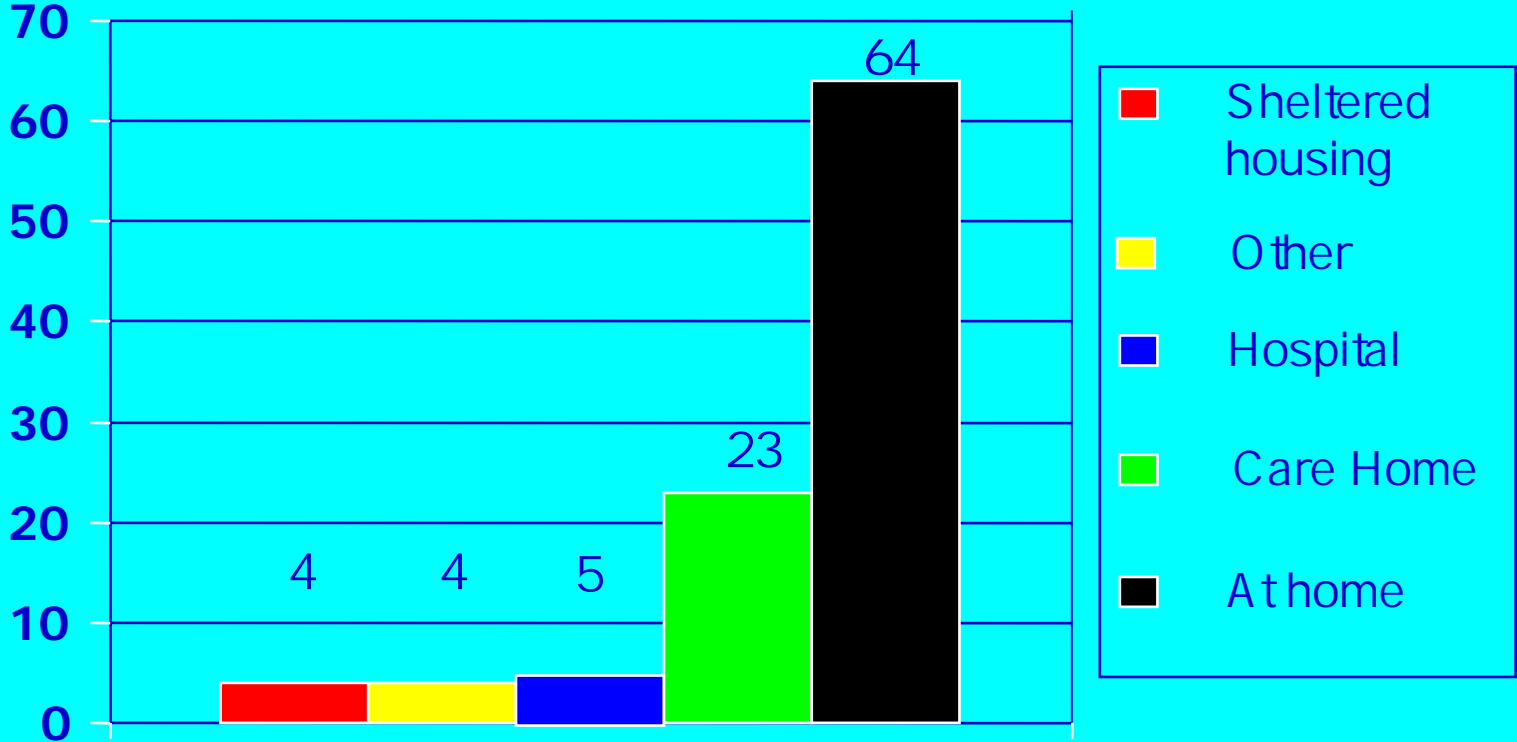
78% of abuse occurs after the age of 70 years





Source: *Hidden Voices 2004*

# Where abuse occurs





# Factors of Abuse

Psychological relationship between the abuser and victim

Inter-generational transmission of violence

Dependency

Stress

Social Isolation

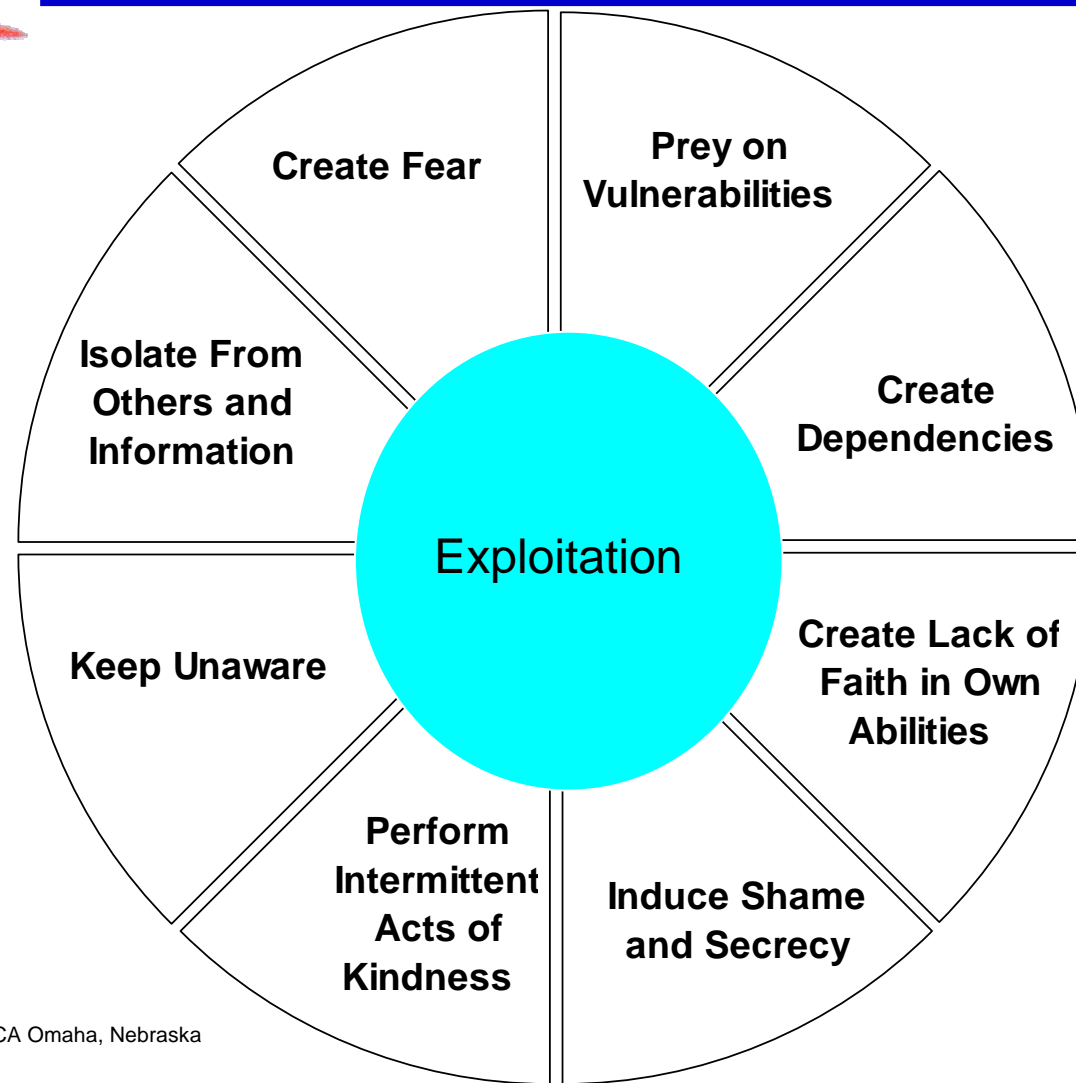
Poverty

Minority Status

Age Discrimination

Disability Discrimination

Communication difficulties





## Vulnerability

Vulnerable People do not exist!

It is environment and circumstances that make people vulnerable. And it is circumstances that define their needs.

When people need support it is invariably because of a physical disability, a mental health problem, a learning disability or a dependence (whether temporary or permanent).

While a need may be age related, 'Age by itself' is still not a cause of vulnerability. The 'Age factor' relates to the discriminatory attitudes that give rise to opportunity and justification for abuse.



## The current state of play

In social care terms the debate has very much been influenced by the introduction of regulation within paid care provision.

The realities of organising, delivering and funding social care has often been ignored in this debate, with little understanding of cause and effect

Within health care the agenda has been almost totally internally driven by practitioners or health care professionals.

In both circumstances the voice of vulnerable people has been difficult to hear and the 'balance' between care needs and business needs has been difficult to maintain.



## Adult Support and Protection Act (Scotland) 2007)

- Introduces new adult protection powers and procedures
- Establishes multi-agency Adult Protection Committees to oversee strategic and operational effectiveness of prevention and protection interventions.
- Includes other amendments to primary legislation
- Introduces the right, in certain circumstances to overrule the wishes of an adult with capacity



## Adult Support and Protection Act (Scotland) 2007)

The Act provides new powers to:

- Investigate suspected harm
- Carry out assessments of the adult and their circumstances
- Intervene to remove the adult or manage the risk of harm
- If necessary and as last resort, to exclude the perpetrator
- If necessary and as a last resort, to force entry to perform the above functions



## The current state of play

Panorama went to South Lanarkshire where an online auction decided the council's new care provider. Domiciliary Care won the auction which saw bidders bidding down, not up. It's one of Scotland's largest care providers looking after more than 1,500 people. While it won with a bid to provide care for £9.95 an hour, South Lanarkshire says the decision to award the contract was based only 40% on price with 60% based on quality of care.

During her time with the company, Arifa found she often had little time to spend on a visit, with one call lasting just three minutes. South Lanarkshire council, who awarded the contract, declined to be interviewed but watched the covert footage and said they found Panorama's allegations deeply concerning and have launched a full investigation.



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These problems require more than simply action at the local level, but an entire culture change in the way that healthcare services for older people are run, as well as strong leadership from the top. The Human Rights Act has an important role to play in moving the culture to one where the needs of the individual older person are at the heart of healthcare services.

*Joint Committee on Human Rights, 2007*



**Elder Abuse**

**Response**

**080 8808 8141**

**9.00am – 5.00pm**

**Monday - Friday**



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Elder Abuse Helpline 0044 (0)80 8808 8141  
Action on Elder Abuse 0044 (0)20 8765 7000

WEBSITE: [WWW.ELDERABUSE.ORG.UK](http://WWW.ELDERABUSE.ORG.UK)