Safeguarding Vulnerable Adults
A New Approach

Lisa Mathews
Service Manager
Risk of Harm

• Safeguarding Protects Against:
  – Significant harm-affects health and wellbeing.
  – Serious Harm-difficult or impossible to recover.

• Intervene at the right level before it gets serious!
Risks Come Together

- Person & patterns
- Abuser/drug dealers etc.
- Environmental flashpoint

Don’t let those risks join!
Safeguarding Hotline

- All Agencies manage risk
- Things not working & some-one at risk of serious harm?
- Ring safeguarding hotline 0207 364 6085 if you need more help
- Staffed by seniors in central safeguarding team
When To Make a Safeguarding Referral?

Person at Risk of Significant or Serious Harm + Agencies Need More Help to Protect the Adult = Safeguarding Referral
Upping Our Game

• New safeguarding support posts

• Developing preventative support for commissioned organisations

• High risk panel if Safeguarding Enquiry is stuck

• Better holistic safeguarding work
Good Practice Case

- S is 33 years old and has three children, one by her ex partner who is in prison for assaulting her and due to return to the family home on release. He is financially and emotionally abusive and controlling. S suffers from depression and previous relationships were also abusive. She is now deaf in one ear following the most recent assault. S reports that she is increasingly depending on alcohol to get through the day. She has fled the family home which is a tenancy in her name, in the past and returned. She has significant debts and rent arrears. Children’s Social Services are involved as one of the children has told a teacher that his father frequently hits him and his mother. Whilst in prison the perpetrator has commenced court proceedings to gain custody of the children. He has telephoned S from prison, shouting at her and telling her she is worthless and that he does not want her in his life. She describes this as ‘just his moods’ and expects him to return to her.

- MARAC co-ordinates response to opportunity of perpetrator absence in custody
- Social services support S to obtain a non-molestation order & residency order, children's centre access and help with debt
- Independent Domestic Violence Advocate liaises with agencies and brokers counselling with CMHT
- Work with S by CMHT and social services to help her understand impact on her children & move to decision to end relationship which she will not reverse
- Emergency risk plan developed with panic alarm and police flag address
- Probation works with offender towards release not contacting victim & enforcing residence away from former home
- On release probation require perpetrator to complete IDAPS programme – victim worker liaises to ensure S remains safe.
- Children's Social Services arrange supervised contact centre access for perpetrator to his child, ensuring child is not used to manipulate S.
Checking Ourselves Out

- New performance dashboard
- Quality-focused auditing
- Safeguarding Manager Forum
- Preventative dialogue with commissioners, commissioned organisations & service users
- Monitoring our front door