Progress to Date

It has been a busy month and a considerable amount of progress has been made with the financial elder abuse project. The team is pressing on with recruitment and analysis of Phase I (interviews) and Phase II preparation (development of case scenarios). We have also made significant progress with Phase III (analysis of policy documents) thanks to the concerted efforts of our project partners Bridget Penhale, Dr Anthony Gilbert and Professor David Stanley.

Monthly profile of our project partners/co-investigators

Each month we intend to provide a brief profile of one of our project partners or co-investigators involved with the project. This month we have the pleasure of introducing Professor David Stanley, of Northumbria University:

Professor David Stanley holds Northumbria University's Chair in Social Care and is a co-Director of the Centre for Collaborative Gerontology in the School of Health, Community & Education Studies. A social scientist with research interests in social care and social gerontology, David previously worked for ten years in residential education and care services for statutory and independent sector organisations.

David has recently been appointed Chair of the newly founded national Social Care Research Ethics Committee, funded by the Department of Health through the National Research Ethics Service and managed under the auspices of the Social Care Institute for Excellence. He is an elected Academician of the Academy of Social Sciences and a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

He is a founding Editor of the Journal of Social Work, published by Sage; a non executive director of Skills for Care, the adult social care Sector Skills Council for England; and a Director of Strategic Solutions Ltd, an organisation development company.

David was chair of the Joint Universities Council for Public Administration, Social Policy and Social Work Education from 2002-05, and currently is active in the social work education committee, its research sub-committee and research governance framework group.

He has also acted as independent chair of complaints reviews panels for a number of Councils with Social Services Responsibilities.

Please note that in our May edition (issue 06) in the ‘Introducing the National Social Care Research Ethics Committee’ section we did not mention that Prof David Stanley was the Chair of the national Social Care Research Ethics Committee. Please accept our sincere apologies for this error.
Phase I
We have now completed Phase I analysis for Social Care Professionals. A total of 23 participants took part and below are some of the themes identified from our analysis.

Q1. What are the cues and patterns of suspecting financial elder abuse?
e.g. Financial problems suspected
“our fees weren't being paid. We had her on full cost because she had property ... He was appointee and was supposed to be paying her invoices but the case was he wasn't paying them” (Care Manager)
e.g. Living circumstances
“Our carer noted that everything she had in the home was the cheapest of the cheapest, and it was minimal you know, very little in the fridge, very very little in the cupboards. He (son-in law) was in control of the finances” (Care Manager)

Q2. What kind of decisions are made or have to be made?
e.g. Gather Evidence
“We need to gather evidence about bank statements, all that sort of thing” (Care Manager)
e.g. Prepare for and take action
“So every bit of documented evidence and everything that was repeated to me I wrote down and immediately reported it to the care manager” (Care Worker)

Q3. What are the features that make decisions difficult?
e.g. Family Perceptions
“I think it’s difficult if you’re working with families about the care of somebody ...if you’re actually saying you know ‘we think you’re abusing them” (Social Worker)

Phase II
Having analysed all the interviews for our social care professionals, we were then able to begin developing case scenarios for Phase II of our project. The table below highlights the cues that will be randomly generated in the case scenarios. We are currently in the process of finalising the cues.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CUE 1 = Age</th>
<th>66-96</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CUE 2 = Gender</td>
<td>Male or Female</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUE 3 = Identifier</td>
<td>E.g. You, family, friend, professional (health, social care, banking, care worker)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUE 4 = Possible method of abuse</td>
<td>E.g. Stealing observed, reliance on others for financial management, rogue traders, financial anomalies in accounts, power of attorney, wills/gifting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUE 5 = Physical Capacity</td>
<td>E.g. No physical health problems, minor physical health problems, major physical health problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUE 6 = Mental Capacity</td>
<td>E.g. Fully mentally aware, slightly confused, extremely confused and forgetful</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CUE 7 = Living circumstances</td>
<td>E.g. Own home, with family, own home with care package, sheltered accommodation, residential care, a nursing home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SHSSC 5th Annual PhD Conference Day 2009
Miranda Davies organised the 5th Annual PhD Conference Day on the 2nd July 2009 at Brunel University. PhD and MPhil students from the School of Health Science and Social Care had the opportunity to present their research projects and prizes were awarded for the oral and poster presentations. Miranda won 1st prize for her oral presentation on the financial elder abuse project. We offer her our congratulations for her success.
BIAS Conference 2009

The Brunel Institute for Ageing Studies had its 1st Annual Conference on Ageing which took place on 22nd June 2009 at Brunel University. The Guest Keynote Speaker was Professor James Goodwin, Director of Research at Help the Aged who offered insight as to where ageing research is going in the future.

Dr Priscilla Harries, Debbie Cairns, Elizabeth Notley and Miranda Davies presented their project findings so far on the financial elder abuse project which was well received by the audience and caused considerable discussion around the research topic.

**Related Conferences and Events**

- **16\(^{th}\) September 2009 – A Practical Guide to Delivering Personalisation: Making transformation a reality.** Manchester Conference Centre, England. ([http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk](http://www.healthcare-events.co.uk))
- **17\(^{th}\) - 18\(^{th}\) September 2009 – EUGMS Glasgow Congress: Palliative Care Medicine and End of Life Issues in Older Adults.** Glasgow, Scotland. ([http://www.bgs.org.uk/Notices/non_bgs_meetings.htm](http://www.bgs.org.uk/Notices/non_bgs_meetings.htm))
- **21\(^{st}\) September 2009 – Personalisation and Safeguarding.** Ramada Piccadilly Hotel, Manchester, England. ([http://www.elderabuse.org.uk](http://www.elderabuse.org.uk))

**Something to read**


Grant Holders
Prof Mary Gilhooly  Brunel University
Dr Priscilla Harries  Brunel University
Prof Ken Gilhooly  Hertfordshire University
Prof Catherine Hennessy  Plymouth University
Dr Tony Gilbert  Plymouth University
Prof David Stanley  Northumbria University
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Partners
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British Association of Social Workers
Help the Aged
HSBC
North Tyneside Council
Relatives and Residents Association
Peninsula Care Sector Group
Peninsula Primary Care Research Network

Older Peoples Reference Group
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