

Hello! A few
introductions





University of
Nottingham
Rights Lab

Cognitive Impairments and Adult Exploitation

A Research Project

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What is a cognitive impairment?



A cognitive impairment is when you think or understand things in a different way to other people.



You might have a cognitive impairment if you have: a learning disability, autism, a memory problem like dementia, a brain injury or a problem with drugs or alcohol.



People who have a cognitive impairment might find everyday life more difficult than other people. They might need support from other people.



What is exploitation?

Exploitation is when a person makes you do things you don't want to do for their own benefit

They might take things from you. For example, your money or things that belong to you.

They might force you to do something.

They might come into your home when you haven't invited them.

Why did we do this research?



Why?

To find out how people with cognitive impairments are at risk from exploitation



We want to help stop exploitation and keep people safer in the future

What did we do?



We looked at all the reports we could find on exploitation. We also looked at Safeguarding Adults data and Safeguarding Adults reviews

We did a survey and spoke to services that help adults who have been exploited, for example the police, housing, dementia support, social services and charities



We spoke to **26** adults with a cognitive impairment. They shared their experience with us



95 people in services filled in our survey
24 people from services spoke to us
We held **2** workshops

What did we find out?

People with cognitive impairments are more at risk of exploitation than other people

Financial exploitation and 'mate crime' seem most common

People often experience more than one type of exploitation or abuse

'Everyday exploitation', includes internet and phone scams

There is more risk of being exploited when someone is controlling you.

What else did we learn?

Sometimes exploitation is not recorded

Law on exploitation is confusing. For example, there is no law on problems like 'cuckooing' or 'mate crime'.

Some people do not get the help they need, because services do not check if they are being controlled or forced to do something

Sometimes services don't know how to help, or may stop trying to help if they think people are 'choosing' to be exploited.

How does this affect people?



- People who are exploited often feel confused, scared or threatened
- They might have mental health problems, money problems, or be alone.
- They might find it difficult to ask for help
- A lot of people who exploit others do not get punished.

How can we help stop exploitation?

- The government needs to collect more information about exploitation of people with cognitive impairment
- Services need better training and ways to ensure that if exploitation is happening, it is not missed.
- More money for advocacy charities and voluntary groups that support people with cognitive impairments
- Information to help people who might be experiencing exploitation
- Improve laws to help keep people safer





CASBA: why did we get involved?

What is exploitation?

Film



Over to you....

How can we
improve the way
that we recognise
and respond to
exploitation?



Exploitation of Adults with Cognitive Impairment in England:

An investigation into evidence, responses,
and policy implications

To find out more:

- Webinar tomorrow! A few places left!
- Report and Easy Read Summary available at exploitationandci.org.uk
- Additional resources for practice will be made available at this site over the next three months
- Contact alison.gardner@nottingham.ac.uk

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