Choice - Building Justice Options with Older People
#choiceop
Making choices on their behalf?

‘Structural’ ageism

Denied access to options because of perceptions about age.....?

Do you treat older people differently?
Today’s message to you

Our research on ‘Access to Justice’

• Older victims of abuse are not always central to the decision making process
• People need to give ‘informed consent’
• People do not know about civil options
• Families do not necessarily want to criminalise the abuser
The project ethos:
Increasing access to justice options, Increasing Choice

The provision of a justice worker to:

• Provide information on civil, criminal and restorative options

• Ensure people are involved and have a **voice** in the process

• Support for up to 18 months

• **Promoting equality of opportunity**
Restorative approaches – in community contexts

Sarah’s presentation:
• Criminal Justice – is the process worth the outcome?
• The value in exploring another approach.
• Our pilot- designed by communities.

Restorative Justice

The Criminal Justice system asks...
- "What law was broken"?
- "Who broke it"?
- "How do we punish them"?
- "What harm was done and to whom"?

In Restorative Justice, practitioners ask...
- "What needs have arisen based on that harm"?
- "Whose obligation is it to meet those needs"?

Younger People and Agers Research Wales
Older People and Ageing Research and Development Network

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‘Crimes against, and abuse of, older people in Wales’ research

- Limited options for older people who are not categorised ‘high risk’
- A lack of understanding about options
- Building trust and befriending
- Taking ownership and empowerment

- Choice offers an early intervention on justice options for low – medium risk people
- The justice worker ensures informed choice
Phases of the Project

• **Phase 1**: Local and national awareness raising

• **Phase 2**: Design a new justice model in each of the two pilot areas (Cardiff and Carmarthen)

• **Phase 3**: Deliver and evaluate the new justice models alongside civil and criminal remedies

• **Phase 4**: Share learning locally, nationally and internationally
Phase 1: Awareness Raising

What we have learnt from our research and our partners:
Phase 2: Taking local ownership of justice options and encouraging empowerment – a new model of justice?

• Design a new restorative approach tailored to local service provision in each of the two pilot areas
• The use of role-play to test ‘the journey’
Phase 3: Delivery of the New Model

• Delivery of the intervention involving criminal, civil and restorative options will begin May 2016 in Carmarthenshire
• Referrals are made via the existing social services infrastructure
• A detailed risk assessment will be carried out before the intervention gets underway
Phase 3: Evaluation of the New Justice Model

- Seek the views of the older person
- Explore the older person’s decision-making process
- Evaluation of the process and outcomes of the new justice model
Phase 4: Share the Learning

• Share our learning with practitioners and the public
• Produce a training package for practitioners
• Disseminate work at selected conferences and community groups
‘Justice and empowerment, along with adult protection should lie at the heart of any comprehensive safeguarding service’

Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales (2010)

Questions?
Professor Alan Clarke

Senior Research Fellow Sarah Wydall