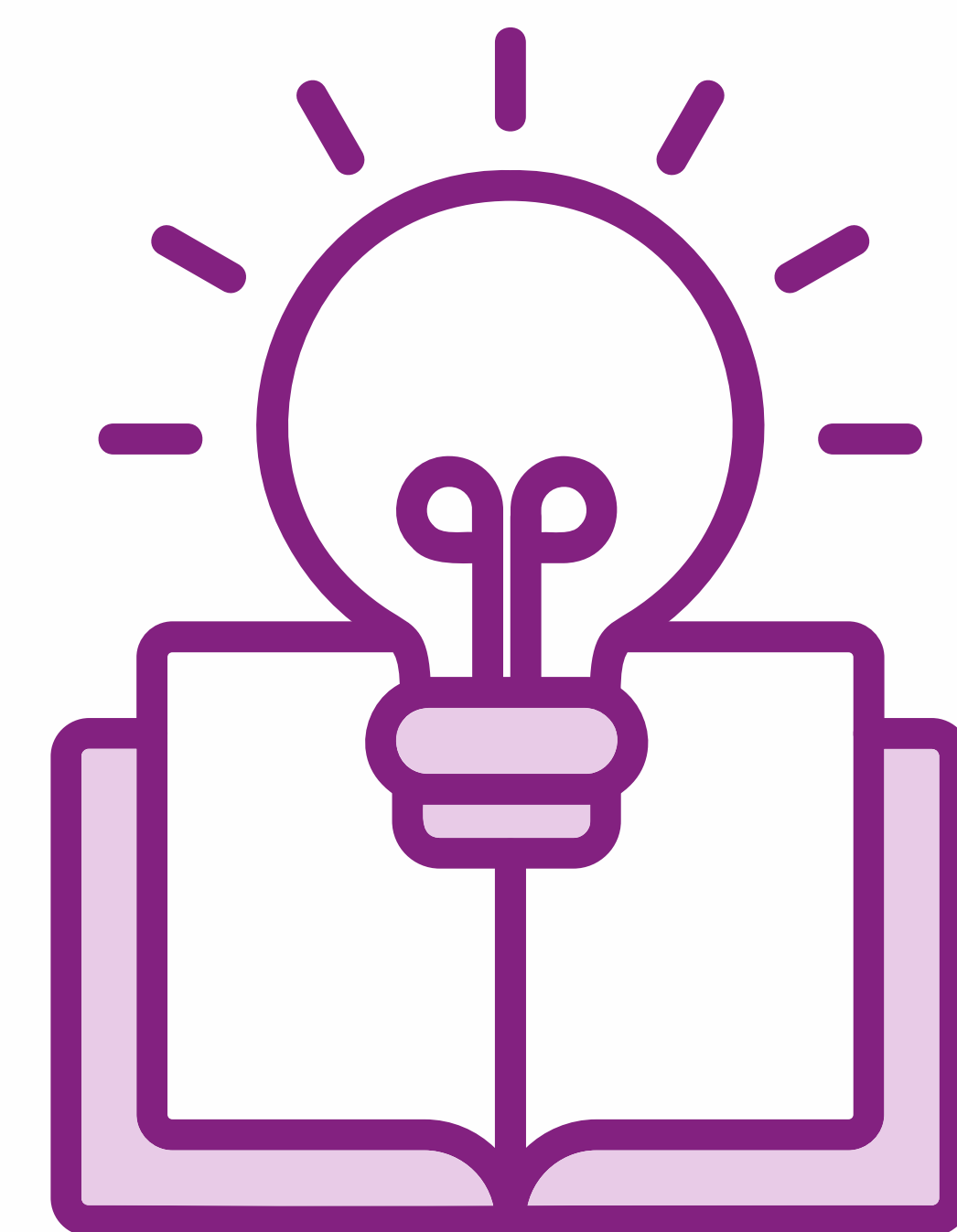




INTRODUCTION

- Domestic abuse of older people is often hidden or unaddressed. Guidance, training and publicity campaigns often focus on intimate partner violence and fail to capture the dynamics of adult family violence/abuse (e.g. abuse by a family member who isn't a partner) which is more prevalent for older adults.
- Assumptions about age can mean that, when older people are injured, depressed or display other signs of domestic abuse, the cause is assumed to be poor health or social care needs.
- Safeguarding Adult Reviews and Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews involving domestic abuse and older people highlight the need to identify and support informal carers.
- On average, older victims experience abuse for twice as long before seeking help as those aged under 61. Older people are much less likely to disclose domestic abuse or self-refer for support; this increases the importance of professional curiosity, routine and selective enquiry.
- The World Health Organisation highlighted that the consequences of domestic abuse can be especially serious for older people. Abuse can lead to long-term psychological problems; recovery is likely to take longer; and even minor injuries can cause permanent damage or death.



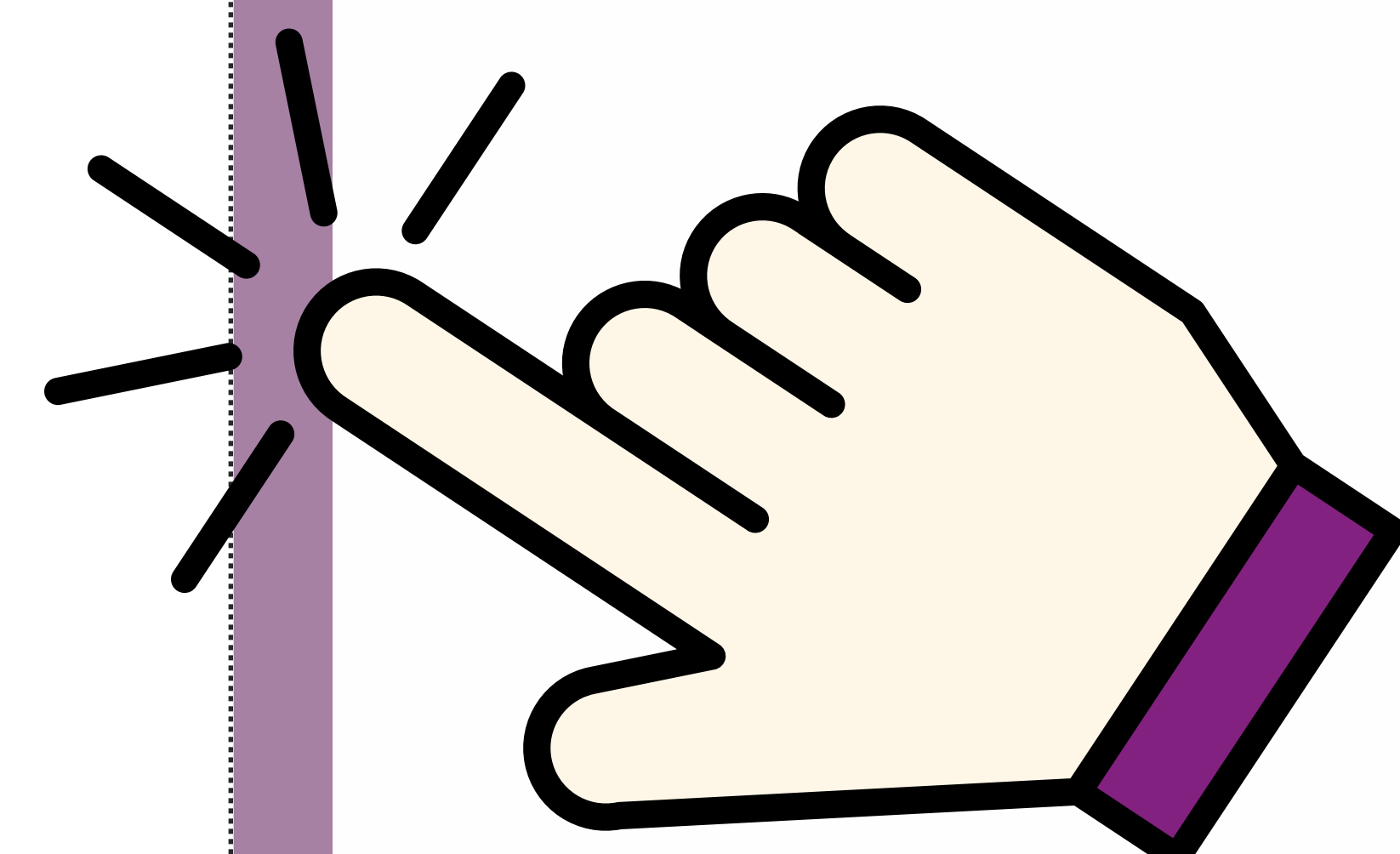
TEAM TALK REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

1. Why might an older person be less likely to disclose domestic abuse? Is there anything the team/individuals could do to overcome barriers to disclosure?
2. What are some the factors that might increase the risk of harm to older people from domestic abuse perpetrators?
3. Discuss how dementia might alter family relationships and increase the risk of domestic abuse.
4. What multi-agency procedures are available to you to share information and manage risk of domestic abuse of older people? Has anyone in the Team had experience of making a MARAC (Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference) referral for an older person who was subject to high risk domestic abuse?
5. What kind of behaviours from carers would cause you to make a professional judgement that domestic abuse was occurring?
6. How will discussions today impact upon your practice?



FURTHER RESOURCES AND TRAINING

[Do You See Her \(Women's Aid short film\)](#)
[Domestic abuse and the co-existence of dementia \(Dewis Choice\)](#)
[Older people and domestic abuse spotlight \(Safe Lives\)](#)
[Information NOW - Looking after someone](#)
[Newcastle Carers](#)
[NSAB Carers Risk Assessment Tool](#)
[Newcastle Domestic Abuse Flowchart](#)
[Newcastle Integrated Domestic Abuse Service \(NIDAS\)](#)
[Adult L Safeguarding Adult Review 7-minute briefing \(NSAB\)](#)





- The Newcastle Safeguarding Adults Board is exploring different ways that key messages can be cascaded to front-line staff. Although formal training can be an important aspect of learning, we are trying to encourage creative ways of learning - in diverse, flexible, and innovative ways. The Team Talk training tool is intended to be used in a Team Meeting but could equally be used in a supervision scenario.
- The tool is divided up into three sections:

INTRODUCTION

Details any relevant legislation or learning from Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs). This information could be used to provide an introduction to the topic – why it is being discussed.

TEAM TALK REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

Suggested questions which should prompt discussion around a particular topic area. Is it not intended that there are right and wrong answers to these questions, hopefully they will facilitate discussion around the topic and give the opportunity for practitioners to share experiences and knowledge that are relevant to their role/p rofession/ service. Try to take an appreciative approach (see below).

FURTHER RESOURCES/TRAINING

Includes a variety of resources, some of which could potentially be used within the team meeting e.g. showing a video/animation or are there for team members to access at a later date.

The Manager of the Team could send out the information in advance to allow team members to consider the topic and questions that are posed. Using the Team Meeting Training Tool could be used to evidence Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for those professions who are required to evidence this.

TAKING AN APPRECIATIVE APPROACH

Focus on Strengths and Positive Outcomes:

- What went well? Celebrating successful safeguarding interventions and good practice.
- Encouraging staff and volunteers to recognise and build on strengths within their teams and cases.

Solution-Focused Reflection:

- “What solutions can we implement to improve this situation?”
- Focus on next steps and positive change.

Collaborative and Open Discussion:

- Foster an open dialogue where everyone feels heard and valued.
- Share ideas and experiences to promote mutual learning and team building

We'd like to know more about the use of the Team Talks, please complete this [short survey](#) to help us understand their use and improve them for the future.