Sometimes the only things visible are tears...
‘a single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust, which causes harm or distress to an older person….
Five types of abuse

• Physical
  Slapping, Hitting, Inappropriate administration of medicines, etc.

• Psychological
  Threatening, using what someone loves or values against them, etc.

• Financial
  Stealing or defrauding someone of goods or property, etc.

• Sexual
  Forcing someone to participate in sexual actions or conversation against their wishes, etc.

• Neglect
  Failing to provide food, or heat or clothing, or needed aids for living
The overall prevalence of abuse, defined by ‘expectation of trust’ in the year preceding the survey was 4%. This equates to 342,000 people aged 66 and over, or 1 in every 25 of the population aged 66 and over.
The overall prevalence of abuse, defined by ‘expectation of trust’ in the year preceding the survey was **8.6%**

This equates to **500,000** people aged 66 and over.
Age of victim

78% of abuse occurs after the age of 70 years

Source: Hidden Voices
Gender of victim

- Men: 22
- Women: 67
- Both: 11

Source: Hidden Voices
UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People - 2007

The Perpetrators

Percentage of all respondents who had experienced abuse in the last year

- **Partner**: 35%
- **Other family**: 33%
- **Home Help**: 9%
- **Friend**: 3%
- **Neighbours and Acquaintances**: 33%
Where abuse occurs

Source: Hidden Voices
UK Study of Abuse and Neglect of Older People - 2007

Abusers and Type

Percentage of those who had been identified as abusers in the last year:

- Partner: 62%
- Other family: 51%
- Friend: 31%
- Home Help: 20%
- Neighbour or Acquaintance: 45%

- Neglect
- Financial
- Other

Domestic Violence
Causes and factors
Factors that may lead to elder abuse:

- Social Isolation
- Patterns of family violence
- Alcohol, drug and mental health problems
- Poor quality long term relationships
- Dependency
Factors that may lead to elder abuse in institutional settings:

- Poor staffing levels and working conditions
- Lack of training, supervision and support
- No procedures or policies on abuse
- Poor communication
Reasons for the hidden nature of abuse

Denial. Practicalities.
Hope. Dependent children, pets, others.
Shame. Fear.
Guilt Religion.
Finances. Culture.

Limited or lack of mental capacity.
Interventions
No Secrets: Section 7 guidance to Local Authorities

- has no jurisdiction over any other statutory agency – social policy driven
- has no dedicated funding
- cannot place a single duty on a single person
- provides not a single power to act
Interventions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where</th>
<th>Relationship</th>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>Culture</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>In family situations – strategies for both abuser and victim</td>
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Screening / Detection

Independent confidential advice and guidance

Coordinated, integrated approaches:

- Legal, medical/social, education, empowerment

Practical services followed by empowerment and support
Thinking about Outcomes:
Lord Justice Munby

Physical health and safety can sometimes be bought at too high a price in happiness and emotional welfare. The emphasis must be on sensible risk appraisal, not striving to avoid all risk, whatever the price, but instead seeking a proper balance and being willing to tolerate manageable or acceptable risks as the price appropriately to be paid in order to achieve some other good – in particular to achieve the vital good of the elderly or vulnerable person’s happiness. What good is it making someone safer if it merely makes them miserable.
Intervention which is proportionate to the harm, or real possibility of future harm, and which has the overall effect (outcome) of improving the life of the adult, including their safety, happiness and mental well-being.

“If the State is to justify removing vulnerable adults from their relatives, partners, friends or carers it can only be on the basis that the State is going to provide a better quality of care than that which they have hitherto been receiving.”