



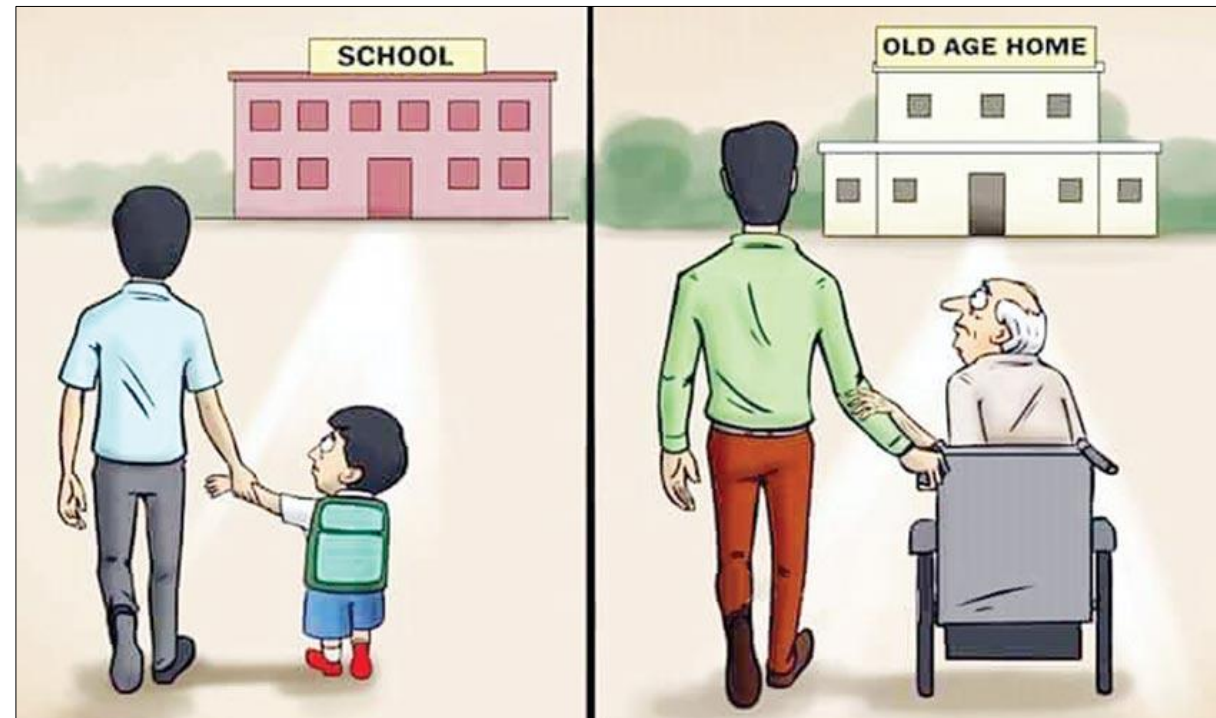
Safeguarding adults in care homes

PERSPECTIVES FROM AN OCCUPATIONAL
THERAPIST



Denial

- A move of choice?
- Standards of care
- 'Not seeing'





Choking risks

- Care staff's understanding of assisting with feeding varies considerably
- Resident requiring a pureed diet served chopped up fish & chips
- Family's view - 'fantastic for providing fish on a Friday'





Cantilever tables

- Used as a form of restraint
- Inappropriate sitting at the dining table





Eating equipment

- Critical role of detailed and complete care plan
- ... and staff having the time to read them





Restriction to fluids

- Simple (and sometimes small) items of equipment to solve a problem
- Can assist the resident to become more independent and prevent the risk of dehydration.
- Follow up action required when recommendations made by not actioned by care home





Specialist seating

- Use of specialist seating described by a family as ‘fortunate’
- Shared between residents
- Used to restrain
- Impact on wellbeing and interaction if not provided





Environmental planning.

- Beds against walls ... always the best solution?
- Looking at a wall for 8 hours a day!





Bed rails

- Key role of a comprehensive assessment of the use of bed rails
- Often misused
- One care home – 17 residents with bed rails in place, only 3 people had bed rail assessment & required bed rails





Moving and Handling risk assessment

- Blanket use of slide sheets – need to be assessed & prescribed as appropriate for the individual
- Training
- Include equipment instructions in care plan





Mandatory moving and handling training

- Mandatory
- E-learning is no substitute for hands on practice sessions





One size does NOT fit all ...

- The convenience sling – favoured by care staff
- Suitable for approx. 25% of all people who are hoisted
- Risk of the user falling through
- Hoist & availability of equipment





Ask to see the sling ...

- Simple steps all Professionals can take
- Quick visual check
- Check that the sling being used is the same one prescribed in the moving and handling guidelines





OT role in safeguarding enquiries

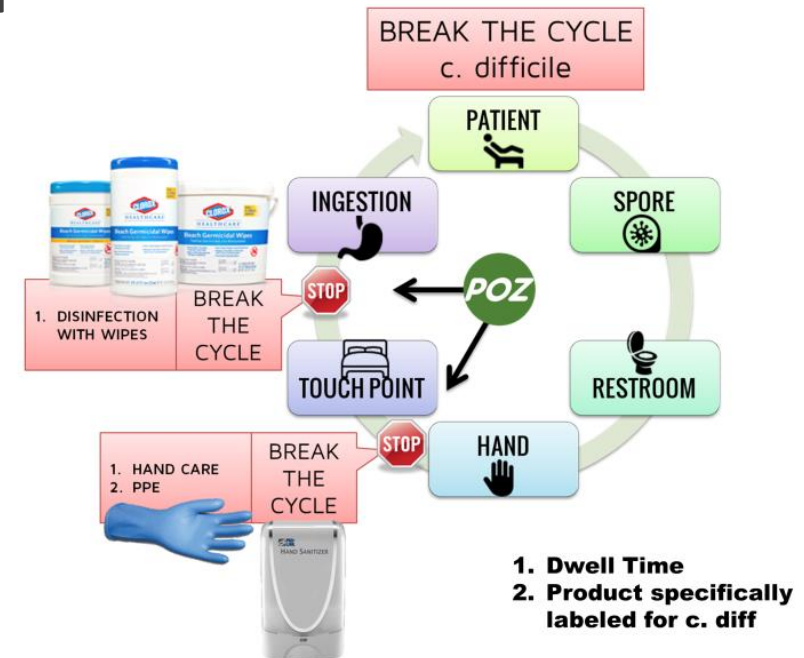
- Handling belts
- 'Can't locate the hoist'
- 'Don't know how to use the hoist'
- 'She has dementia and chooses to stay in bed anyway'





Infection Control

- Sharing equipment increases risk of the spread of infection
- record keeping
- ONE sling = One Person





Social deprivation v social activities

- We must not underestimate the negative impact of poor / restricted social interaction
- Looking out the window or staring at each other
- Impact of social activity as a preventative safeguarding measure





Easy steps all Professionals can use

- Ask to see specialist assessments | seating, bed rails, swallowing
- Slings | quick visual check
- Slings | is one being used for many residents?
- Cantilever tables | used to restrict a persons movement?



Organisational?

PROFESSIONALS CAN IDENTIFY ORGANISATIONAL NEGLECT BY
MULTI-DISCIPLINARY WORKING



Key point summary

- Importance of preventative measures to reduce risk of abuse and harm occurring
- Sign of neglect & abuse would have been present for sometime
- Skills of OT's need to be utilised in preventing care home failures
- Look, observe, report, discuss.



Julie McKie – Occupational Therapist

Safeguarding from an Occupational Therapist's Perspective