

Safeguarding Questionnaire Analysis

Summary

Generally, people found this quite a difficult task to undertake, it was expressed that although they have heard these words, some on a regular basis, many found it difficult to explain their meaning. From the evidence acquired it is apparent that when the sample group gave the words their own definition there was an inclination to simplify the language and give description to the word as if to 'say what the word does'. In the case of '**Perpetrator**' and '**Victim**' many of the sample group wanted to describe it as '**the person who**', as if they wanted to humanise the words.

Methodology

A broad sample of people was used in order to try to realistically represent the populous of Coventry.

The questionnaire was circulated to people using various means at various sites to include a local college, a 6th form college intranet, LINK website, Facebook and voluntary sector organisations who work in partnership with LINK. A focus group was also held within an older people's residential setting.

The questionnaire asked people their understanding of five key words used in relation to safeguarding vulnerable adults, these were, Safeguarding, Abuse, Victim, Perpetrator and Neglect. They were also asked to offer better words/phrases to use instead of these words.

Sample Group

In total 96 people participated in this exercise; however 6 chose not to reveal their ethnicity, age and gender. The rest of the make up is as follows:

Gender	
Male	34
Female	56

Ethnicity	
British	67
Irish	2
Traveller	1
Eastern Euro	1
White other	3
White and black Caribbean	5
White and Asian	1
Indian	6

Caribbean	2
Other ethnic groups	2

Disability	
Disabled	32
Non-disabled	58

Based on the statistics above 24.4% of the sample group was from BME groups and 30.7% people surveyed perceived themselves to be disabled.

Findings

Overall the people who participated had a varied understanding of the words. Many people would prefer for different words/sentences to be used for easier understanding. Often these words are describing the person/action in several words.

For example

Abuser – The person who...financially mistreats, sexually mistreats

Victim – The person who... is financially mistreated, sexually mistreated

Abuse

It appears that most of the people surveyed had some understanding of the word 'Abuse' but not necessarily in all the aspects of abuse but interestingly 'cyber' and 'technologically' were raised as forms of abuse. Younger people perceive bullying as abuse.

23 people said they understood and felt the word was the most suitable to use. 33 people said that there were better words/phrases to use; the rest chose not to comment or felt unsure about the answer.

Commonalities that occurred for preferred words/phrases are as follows:

'Unfair treatment,' 'mistreatment of', 'hurt/pain caused'.

It was also commented that the type of mistreatment should be specifically described, e.g. mistreated by being punched.

Safeguarding

Majority of people surveyed associated the word with the concept of protection.

4 people considered Safeguarding to be the best word to use. 64 people said that they thought it was not the best word to use.

The rest of the sample group were unsure or chose not to comment

Commonalities of preferred words that occurred were:

'Looking out for the well being of', 'protection of', 'keeping people safe' 'preventing'.

Victim

14 people thought 'Victim' was the best word to use 29 people didn't think that this was the best word to use. The rest of the sample group were unsure or didn't comment.

It was mentioned several times that it is a very disempowering word and people may not associate their experience to this word.

Commonalities of preferred words that occurred were:

'Person who is mistreated', 'person who is abused', 'someone who is targeted'.

The main commonality was the use of the word **person** before describing an action which appeared to humanise the expression.

Perpetrator

5 people thought 'Perpetrator' was the best word to use. 39 people did not think this was the best word to use. A large proportion of the rest of the sample group did not understand the word but also said they did not like the word either. Beyond this there was a general connection to criminality.

Commonalities of preferred words that occurred were:

'Person who has.....abused, harmed, stolen' (the key part being that it describes a person and their behaviour) **'Abuser'**

Neglect

From responses people seemed to have an acceptable understanding of this word. 26 people thought this was the best word to use, many of those that liked this word expressed that to give it full meaning it requires more definition, e.g. Adult neglect, Child neglect, Animal neglect. 33 people thought it was not the best word to use The rest of the sample group chose not to comment

Commonalities of preferred words that occurred were:

'Lack of care' 'not looked after' 'ignoring basic needs'