

Safeguarding Adults at Risk

ann craft trust
acting against abuse

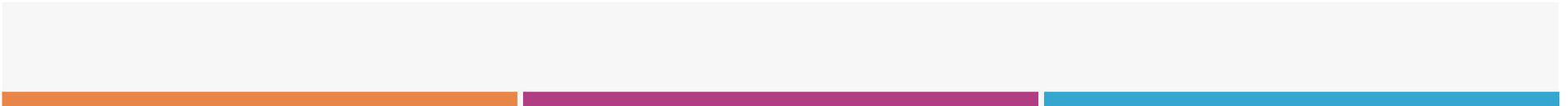
Rachael Clawson

Assistant Professor in Social Work

Ann Craft Trust

ACTing against abuse

- Established in 1992, and part of the University of Nottingham, the Ann Craft Trust (ACT) is a national charity
- ACT works with staff in the statutory, independent and voluntary sectors in the interests of disabled children and adults at risk of abuse



ACT Services

In working towards safeguarding and protection, ACT provides the following services:

- **Information and Advice**
 - **Training, Consultancy, Seminars, Conferences**
 - **Research, Publications and Books**
 - **Membership**
 - **Campaigns**
 - **Safeguarding Adult Reviews/Serious Case Reviews**
- 

Research, Publications and Books

ACT has completed a number of research projects which are used to inform practice, training and publications.

In addition to our research projects we have also published a range of books and resources which are invaluable to anyone working with disabled children and adults at risk of abuse.

We have recently published reports on Forced Marriage and Child Sexual Exploitation.



Our projects include

- Financial abuse of people with learning disabilities (DH)
 - Inclusive support for parents with learning disabilities (HO/DH)
 - Forced marriage of people with learning disabilities (FMU)
 - Safeguarding and preventing abuse of children with mental disabilities in institutions (EU)
 - Taking time – sexual exploitation (PCC)
 - Experts by experience (CQC)
 - Safeguarding Adults in Sport (SE)
- 

Research includes

- Inconclusive outcomes following adult safeguarding alerts
 - Exploratory and comparative study of adult safeguarding referral rates
 - Forced marriage – developing knowledge, policy and practice to keep people safe
 - Is it abuse or just poor practice?
 - Blowing the whistle on abuse of adults with learning disabilities
 - European study looking at children's residential provision
- 

Experts by Experience

ACT is pleased to be working in partnership with Choice Support and other organisations;

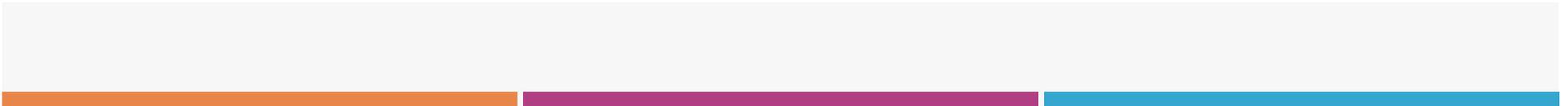
- To become an Expert by Experience you need to have personal experience of using services or of caring for someone who uses services.
 - Work alongside CQC inspectors to carry out inspections of health, mental health and social care services. They get the views of people who are using the service.
 - Experts by Experience are paid for the work they do.
- 

Current challenges

- Introducing the Care Act
 - Implementing 'Making Safeguarding Personal'
 - Embedding MCA in practice
 - The Prevent agenda
 - Online and Social Media risks
 - Sexual Exploitation
 - Mate Crime
- 

Acknowledgement & Disclaimer

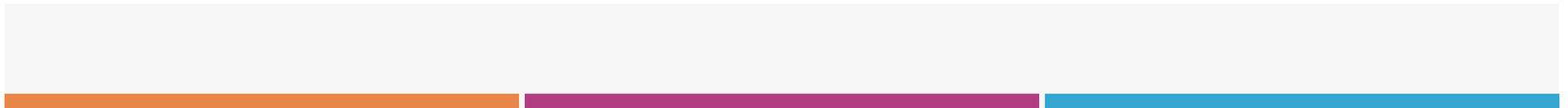
The following represents independent research funded by the NIHR School for Social Care Research. The views expressed in this presentation are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the NIHR School for Social Care Research or the Department of Health, NIHR or NHS.



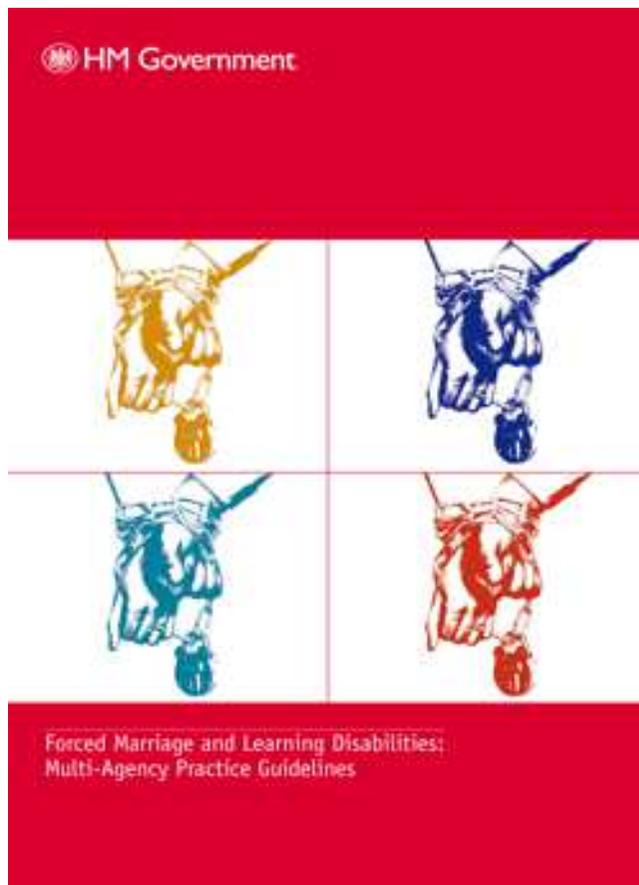
My Marriage My Choice

2 year research project funded by the NIHR
School of Social Care Research

The research was conducted by the
University of Nottingham in collaboration
with colleagues at the Tizard Centre,
RESPOND and Ann Craft Trust.



Building on previous work



2009-10: **Research:** the motivators for and consequences of forced marriage of people with learning disabilities (PWLD)

2011 – **Practice development:** training programme for frontline practitioners

2012-13 – **Research:** Forced Marriage and Safeguarding Policy

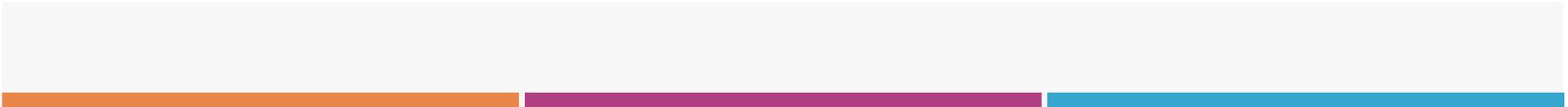
2014-15 – **Awareness-raising:** 'Hidden Trust' seminar series

All projects were funded by the Forced Marriage Unit Domestic Programme Fund

What did we do in this research?

Phase 1

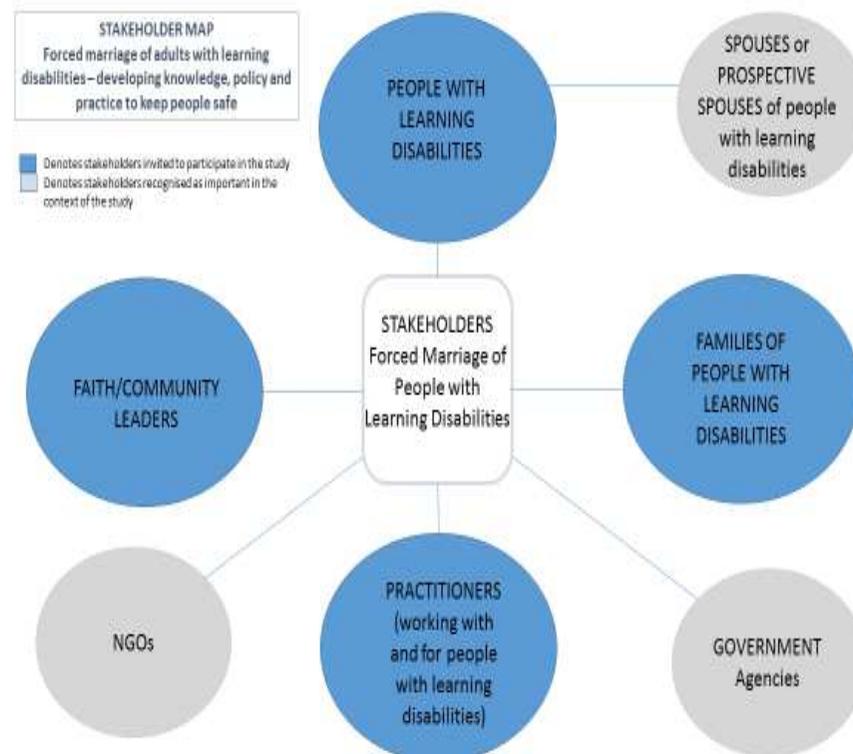
- Analysis of Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) data collected 2009–2015
 - data collection by FMU has grown year on year
 - FMU publish figures annually for all cases
- We had access to the data for cases of people with learning disabilities – with FMU’s assistance
- Enabled description of this ‘population’
- Enabled some comparisons of all-case data and that for people with learning disabilities



What did we do in this research?

Phase 2

- Interviews and Focus Groups with four key stakeholder groups
 - 19 people with learning disabilities
 - 23 family carers
 - 16 faith/community leaders
 - 37 practitioners (social work services, health services, the police service and learning disability services)



Headline findings of the project – from FMU data (2009–2015)

- Forced Marriage Unit (FMU) data demonstrate increase year on year of cases being reported in respect of people with learning disabilities – similar increased reporting in all cases.
- Key differences highlighted in terms of gender and age in respect of cases reported for people with learning disabilities
 - more cases of males with learning disabilities being reported than those of females with learning disabilities as compared with all cases
 - ages of people with learning disabilities being reported as being at risk of or having been forced into marriage are higher than in all cases.
- Profile of a ‘typical’ person who may be at risk of forced marriage is notably different – has implications for practice.
- Highest incidence of reported cases: London & South East; West Midlands; North West, and Yorkshire & Humberside. We interviewed stakeholder groups in those areas.

Headline findings of the project - from people with learning disabilities

- They recognised that they have the right to choose but the degree to which they are able to exercise rights was variable – determined by individuals’ capacity to understand marriage and family and living circumstances.
 - Some people with learning disabilities demonstrated strong conviction and willingness to vocally exercise their rights to choose – though there remained a strong deference to others (particularly parents) over decisions.
 - When presented with specific scenarios about forced marriage people were less sure of rights and wrongs of particular situations and more likely to acquiesce with persuasive suggestions.
 - Those who expressed the most willingness to say no to unwanted marriages were those with observable capacity, a wider frame of reference on marriage and wide social opportunities suggesting that a greater vulnerability to forced marriage may exist for those who have less of any or all of these.
- 

Headline findings of the project -from family carers

- Mixed experiences –some felt high level of acceptance in their social circles and wider community – some experienced isolation and stigma.
 - Distinctions between arranged and forced marriage appeared blurred for many families. Some aware of the law – many were not.
 - Appreciated people with learning disabilities had differing levels of capability but had less clear understandings of capacity and how it's assessed
 - Reported dilemmas about marriage – desired contentment/marriage for relative but made incorrect assumptions that this would always be possible
 - Key seen as finding 'right' partner. Concerns of the partner without learning disability coping were put above risks or concerns that may exist for the person with a learning disability.
 - Motivations for considering marriage were intertwined with concerns about future care. Younger family members seemed more open to idea of support/services.
- 

Headline findings of the project - from faith/community leaders

- In some people faiths with learning disabilities were treated as equals – in others there was level of stigma in having this ‘label’. Mixed experiences even within the same faith community.
 - Prevalent view of compassion/tolerance of diversity though this also meant denial of difference and the possibility that life expectations (incl. marriage) may be considered even when it may not be appropriate.
 - Most aware of law but capacity to consent and the assessment of this problematic, on both a language level and on what capacity was – important implications for who may or may not be able to get married legally.
 - Most felt their role was largely one of preparing and conducting marriages and supporting people in marriage, rather than influencing choice to marry.
 - Alluded to strong influence of families in marriage matters and the vested interests there may be in bringing families together through marriage. Made assumptions that parents know best for their offspring suggesting limitations to their own role in influencing marriage decisions.
- 

Headline findings of the project - from practitioners

- Identified future care concerns as the highest motivator for families
- Perceived there were genuine misunderstandings among families about forced marriage, capacity and consent
- Practitioners' awareness of FM varied greatly in line with the incidence in their area. Also true of their awareness of statutory guidelines and the law relating to forced marriage.
- Assessment of capacity to consent to marriage was misunderstood by some practitioners.
- Expressed need for dedicated training and resources
- Challenges faced by practitioners in recognising, reporting and progressing cases included:
 - lack of resources and the lack of infrastructure to support the speedy progression of cases
 - collusive activities within families and between families and other practitioners
 - delicate balancing of maintaining existing relationships with families whilst delivering sometimes 'disagreeable' outcomes to them.

Outputs – resources to improve safeguarding

- Summary of Findings – Full version
 - Short Version
 - Easy Read version
 - Includes 'emerging' implications – more work intended/approved
- Guidance and tool kit to support practitioners assessing capacity to consent to marry
- Film aimed at people with learning disabilities, families, faith/community groups to raise awareness of forced marriage
- Detailed case study report which will explain forced marriage through the use of composite cases (to preserve anonymity)
 - to help bring to life – motivations, risks, consequences and potential outcomes
 - designed to aid awareness and understanding of all those caring for or working with people with learning disabilities

Free access to all resources!

My Marriage My Choice Project website:

www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/mymarriagechoice

Direct link to the Forced Marriage Awareness Film page:

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/mymarriagechoice/film/index.aspx>

Direct link to the Practice Guidelines and Training Resources page (this also contains the Case Studies document and Summary of Findings):

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/research/groups/mymarriagechoice/guidelines-resources/index.aspx>



Contact details for further information

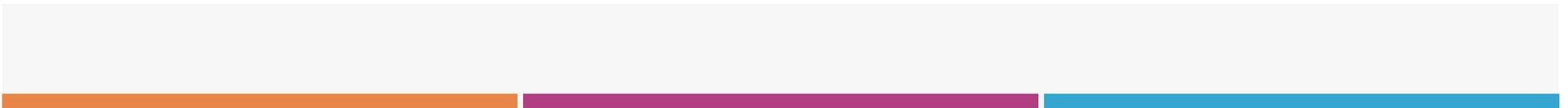
Email:

mymarriagemychoice@nottingham.ac.uk

rachael.clawson@nottingham.ac.uk

anne.patterson@nottingham.ac.uk

Twitter: [@marriagechoice](https://twitter.com/marriagechoice)



Ann Craft Trust

Centre for Social Work

University of Nottingham

NG7 2RD

0115 951 5400

ann-craft-trust@nottingham.ac.uk

anncrafttrust.org



Everyone has a right to be treated with respect and dignity.
Everyone deserves to be safe.

