

# Definitions of vulnerability

- PEEL: Police Effectiveness 2017
- a national overview – identified that, three years later, forces continue to use several definitions of vulnerability: 12 make reference to a definition used by ACPO/ NPCC
- 11 use a definition provided by the College of Policing,
- 5 use the definition from the government's Code of Practice for Victims of Crime
- 15 use their own definition or a combination of the definitions above and,
- 13 use a different definition of vulnerability to the one they used in 2016.

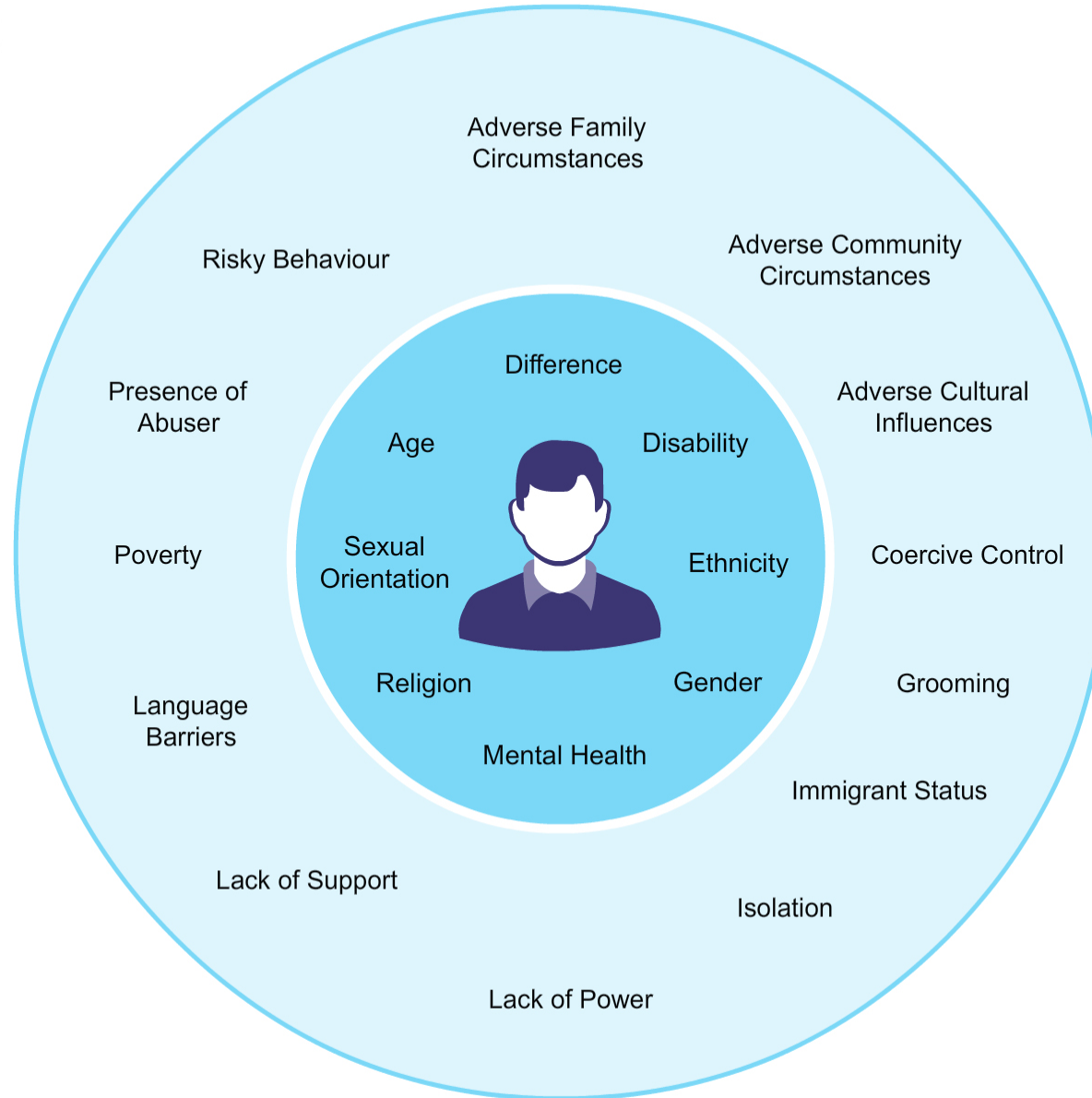


## Definition of vulnerability

- 'A person is vulnerable if, as a result of their situation or circumstances, they are unable to take care or protect themselves, or others, from harm or exploitation.'
- [https://www.college.police.uk/News/College-news/Pages/police\\_transformation\\_fund.aspx](https://www.college.police.uk/News/College-news/Pages/police_transformation_fund.aspx)

# Vulnerability

an aid to understanding



- Personal factors
- Situational factors

**'In the Eye of the  
Storm'  
A research report  
for Action for  
Children, The  
Children's Society  
and NSPCC  
Howard Reed,  
Landman  
Economics June  
2012**

- 1. Worklessness – no parent in the family is in work;
- 2. Housing – the family lives in poor quality and/or overcrowded housing;
- 3. Qualifications – no parent in the family has any academic or vocational qualifications;
- 4. Mental health – the mother has mental health problems;
- 5. Illness/disability – at least one parent has a limiting long-standing illness, disability or infirmity;
- 6. Low income – the family has low income (below 60% of the median);
- 7. Material deprivation – the family cannot afford a number of food and clothing items.
- <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/globalassets/documents/research-reports/eye-storm-britains-forgotten-children-families-report.pdf>

How will  
vulnerable  
people come  
to police  
notice?



# What are the differing types of vulnerability?

- Child abuse, including neglect, child sexual abuse/exploitation (CSE)
- Adults at risk
- Domestic abuse
- Families with complex needs
- Missing persons
- Forced marriage
- Honour-based abuse
- Female genital mutilation (FGM)
- Modern slavery and human trafficking
- Sex work and prostitution
- Coercive control
- Stalking and harassment
- Sexual offences
- Managing offenders
- Hate crime

# College of Policing Approach to Vulnerability

**A person is vulnerable if, as a result of their situation or circumstances, they are unable to take care of or protect themselves or others from harm or exploitation.**

The following equation underpins our approach:

Personal Factors

+

Situational Factors

=

Harm / Risk of Harm

# Vulnerability – Risk Factors

**Risk** is exposure to danger, harm or loss

**Risk assessment** is the process of estimating the likelihood, nature and extent of risk (the danger, harm or loss) (College of Policing definition)

To reduce risk you have to understand/sense that risk exists, capture the information about current risk factors and take action to reduce the risk

## **Three stages of risk assessment**

1 Initial Risk assessment (what information is there)

2 Risk analysis (what is that information telling us about the risk)

3 Risk management (what plan can we put into place to remove or mitigate the risk)



# Social Factors

Race

Class

Religion

Socio-  
economic  
status

Demographics

Role in  
relationships

# Types of Abuse Care Act 2015-What types of potential abuse can you identify?

## PHYSICAL ABUSE

Financial Abuse

Psychological Abuse

Discrimination

Neglect/Omission

Cyber Bullying

'Mate' Crime

## DOMESTIC ABUSE

Sexual Abuse

Modern Day Slavery

Institutional Abuse

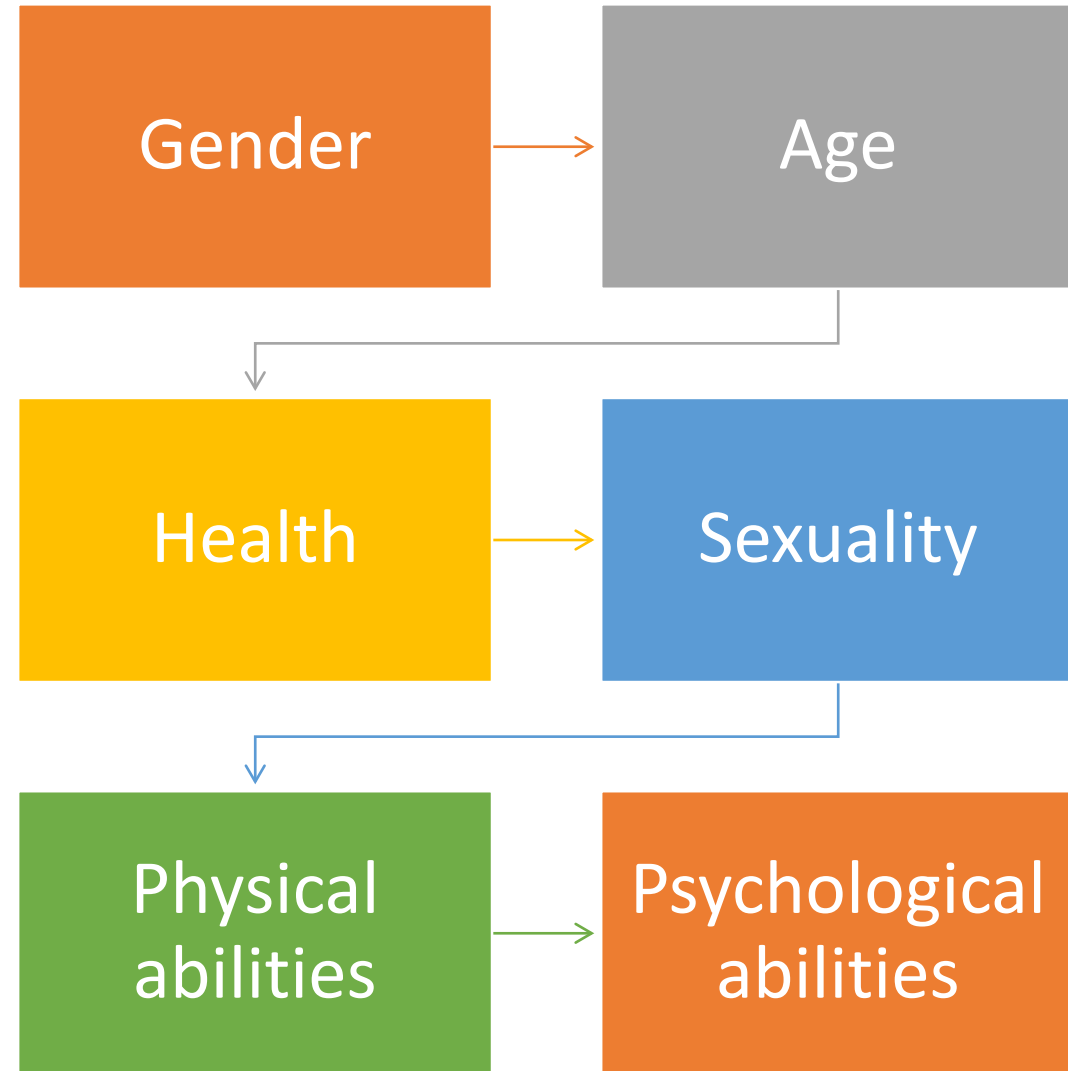
Self-neglect

Forced Marriage

Radicalisation

# Personal & Physical Factors

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# Environmental/Situational Factors

Deprivation

Social  
Isolation

Repeat  
Victimisation

Language  
Barriers

Lack of Power

Coercive  
Control

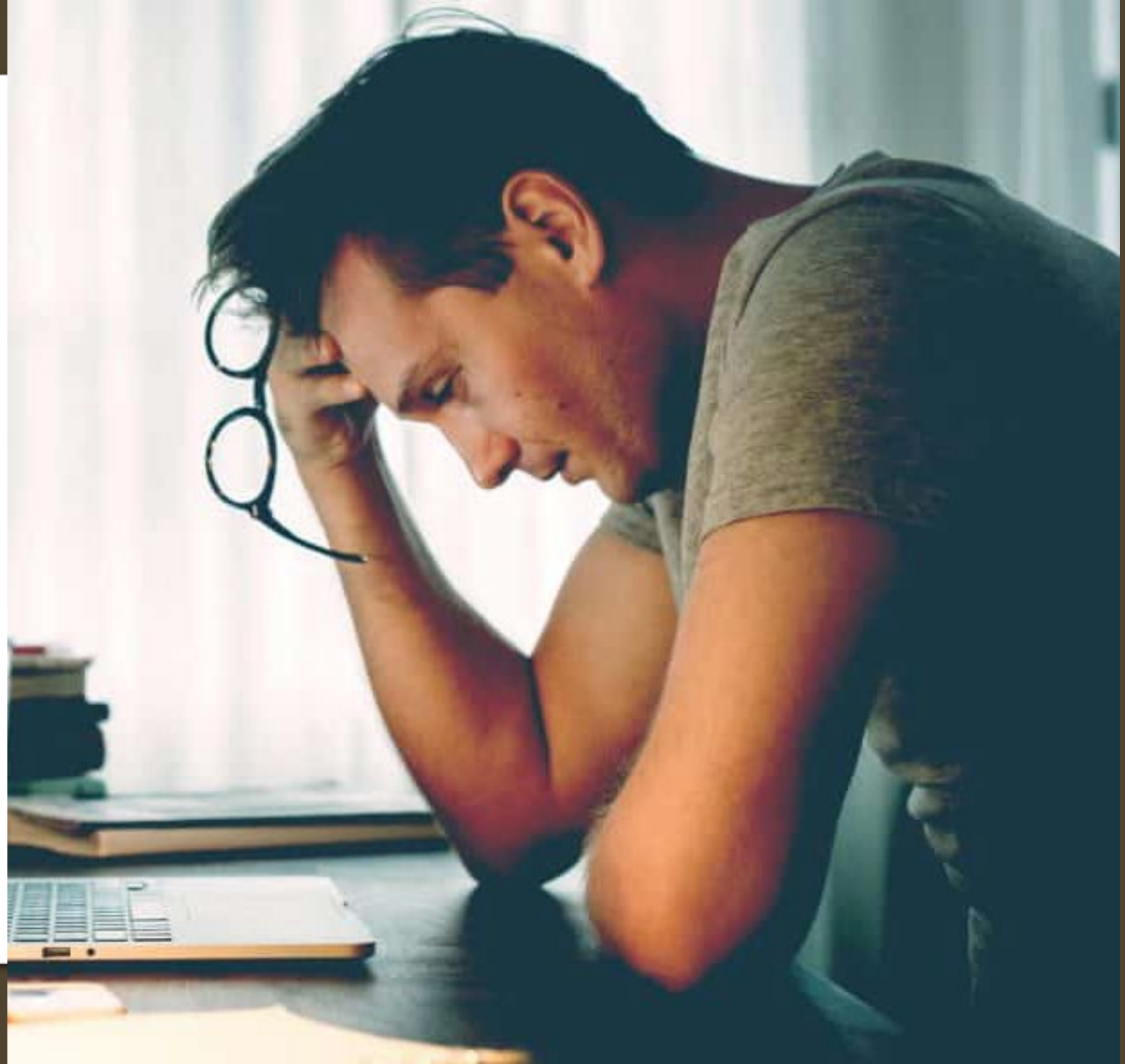
Housing

Adverse  
Family  
Circumstances



What is the police role in managing vulnerability?

**Looking after  
yourself when  
dealing with  
distressing  
situations?**



**Who can  
help with  
Investigations?**



# The Human Rights Act 1998

- Consent to share information
  - Article 6 Right to a private life & 8 fair trial
- Person's mental capacity to consent to information being shared
- Make sure that others are not put at risk by information being kept confidential:
- Does the risk to person outweigh the public interest served by protecting confidentiality?
- Could your action prevent a serious crime?
- Share information on a 'need-to-know' and necessity basis.
- Record decisions



# Crime and Disorder Act 1998

- **Any person may disclose information to a relevant authority under Section 115 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, 'where disclosure is necessary or expedient for the purposes of the Act (reduction and prevention of crime and disorder)'.**
- **'Relevant authorities', broadly, are the police, local authorities, health authorities (clinical commissioning groups) and local probation boards.**

Data Protection Act is not a barrier to sharing information.

Be open and honest with the person about why, what, how and with whom information will be shared.

Seek advice if you are in any doubt

Share with consent where appropriate.

Consider safety and wellbeing of the subject of the information.

Necessary, proportionate, relevant, accurate, timely and secure

Keep a record of your decision to share/not share and the reasons for it.

## Seven Golden Rules for information Sharing 'Information Sharing' DCSF 2008

# Care Act 2014

Set up a safeguarding board to share strategic information to improve local safeguarding practice

Co-operate with each of its relevant partners; each relevant partner must also cooperate with the local authority

Clause 45 Care Act responsibilities of others to comply with requests for information from the safeguarding adults board

Principles	Detail
<b>1. Protection</b>	supporting victims so they can take action (Legislation and guidance)
<b>2. Prevention</b>	responding quickly to suspected cases of abuse (Indicators of abuse or neglect)
<b>3. Partnership</b>	sharing the right information in the right way (sharing information)
<b>4. Empowerment</b>	putting people first and helping those who lack mental capacity feel involved and informed. (communication)
<b>5. Proportionality</b>	making sure what we do is appropriate to the situation and for the individual (making judgements/dealing and reporting allegations)
<b>6. Accountability</b>	making sure all agencies have a clear role (Roles and responsibilities)

# Common Law Duty of confidentiality

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# Principles of DPA 2018 and GDPR

