

**If all you have is a hammer, everything looks like a nail:  
*Supporting social workers to undertake more effective  
assessments of people affected by ABI***

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# What do we know about ABI and why is it important to support social workers?

- \* Range of outcomes, difficult to predict at the outset
- \* ABI is a process, not a one off event, things change over time. Some people deteriorate without adequate input
- \* Rehabilitation and support services can and do change lives
- \* Social workers can access services and utilise the law to assist them to do so
- \* Dunning Kruger vs Johari Window?

# Let's start with the evidence...

- \* Mantell, A., Simpson, G., Jones, K., Strandberg, T., Simonson, P., & Vungkhanching, M. (2012). Social work practice with traumatic brain injury: the results of a structured review. *Brain Injury, 26*, 459 - 460.
- \* Mantell, A., Simpson, G. K., Vungkhanching, M., Jones, K. F., Strandberg, T., & Simonson, P. (2017). Social work-generated evidence in traumatic brain injury from 1975 to 2014: A systematic scoping review. *Health & Social Care in the Community*.

# Criticisms of practice...

- \* House of Lords. (2014). *Mental Capacity Act 2005: post-legislative scrutiny*. London: The Stationary Office.
- \* *Making the Abstract Real: Recommendations for action following the House of Lords Select Committee Post-Legislative Scrutiny Report into the Mental Capacity Act*.
- \* Holloway, M. (2017). *Acquired brain injury: the lived experience of family members*. (DSW), University of Sussex, Brighton.

# Criticisms of practice 2 (+ a suggestion?)

- \* Norman, A. (2016). A preventable death? A family's perspective on an adult safeguarding review regarding an adult with traumatic brain injury. *Journal of Adult Protection*, 18(6), 341-352. doi:10.1108/JAP-08-2016-0017
- \* Morgan, P. (2017). A response to "A preventable death? A family's perspective on an adult safeguarding review regarding an adult with traumatic brain injury. *Journal of Adult Protection*, 19(1), 4-9. doi:10.1108/JAP-01-2017-0002

# Criticisms of practice 3 (+ a reason?)

- \* Norman, A., Moore, S., Wotus, R., Holloway, M., & Dean, J. (2018). *Supported Decision Making: Brain injury case managers' experience of mental capacity and the mental capacity act.*
- \* Holloway, M. (2014). How is ABI assessed and responded to in non-specialist settings? Is specialist education required for all social care professionals? *Social Care and Neurodisability*, 5(4), 201-213
- \* George, M. S., & Gilbert, S. (2018). Mental Capacity Act (2005) assessments: why everyone needs to know about the frontal lobe paradox. *The Neuropsychologist*(5), 59 - 66.

# Lessons for Social Work

- \* Invisible impairments may be driver behind need for input
- \* *So this needs to be assessed and integrated*
- \* Family/3<sup>rd</sup> parties have knowledge SW's lack
- \* *So this needs to be included and family incorporated*
- \* Effective assessment is not a one-off 20 minute visit
- \* *Practice must reflect this reality*
- \* Lack of knowledge of ABI is a significant factor
- \* *Social Work training must reflect this*

# Lessons for social work 2

- \* How much do SW's know about neuro-rehab and MDT type processes?
- \* *Probably very little, invite them along?*
- \* Autonomy is not promoted by failing to integrate 3<sup>rd</sup> party evidence, appeal to SW ethos
- \* *An absence of adequate input limits lives*
- \* Attitude is key
- \* *Everybody's, we will not change this by shouting..*

# So what can we do to help?

- \* Take a constructive approach
- \* Share printed information, share and reward good practice
- \* Direct social workers towards Headway
- \* Use and promote BINI and BISWG forms
- \* Learn which aspects of law/guidance are our friends
- \* Lobby our representatives
- \* Use high quality public lawyers
- \* NEVER DROP THE SUBJECT!

*Thank you for your time.  
Any questions?*

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