



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago
Ministry of Social Development and Family Services

DIVISION OF AGEING

Under the Auspices of Senator The Honourable Donna Cox

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY (WEAAD) ONLINE Webinar Series: 15, 22, 23 & 30 July 2021

Elder Abuse Prevention in Independent Living and Long Term Care Facilities: The Innovation Game

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THE SCALE OF THE CHALLENGE

- ❑ Reports from the WHO revealed around 1 in 6 people 60 years and older experienced some form of abuse in community settings during the past year. (WHO, 2021)
- ❑ Every year an estimated 2.1 million older Americans are victims of elder abuse, neglect, or exploitation, and for every case of elder abuse or neglect reported, as many as five cases go unreported (Administration on Aging, 2019).
- ❑ 8.6% of older people living in the community experience elder abuse; predicted to reach 1.6m victims by 2050 (Hourglass, 2019).
- ❑ Age UK reported in 2020 over 280,000 older adults aged between 60 to 74 years experienced domestic abuse, and 80,000 more suffered during the pandemic. (Office of national Statistics, 2020)
- ❑ In England, adults between the ages of 74 to 80 years of age accounted for the highest numbers of safeguarding reports, with reports among people 85+ being highest across all counties in England. (Safeguarding Adults Collection Tables, NHS Digital, 2019)



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DEFINITION AND SUB-TYPES

Abuse is anything that goes against a person's human and civil rights which causes harm or distress to that person. It can occur within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust and can manifest as

- a single act
- a series of repeated acts
- a failure to provide necessary care, or
- neglect

Sub-types include:

sexual, physical, verbal, financial, emotional, racial, psychological, pharmacological, neglect, and tech abuse.

The broad category of "acts of omission" is unique to the UK. Its content is unclear, particularly as to if and how it may differ from neglect.



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THE IMPACT

- Older adults who experience even modest abuse have a 300% higher risk of death when compared to those who have not been abused. (US National Center on Elder Abuse)
- Abuse among older adults was associated not only with increased all-cause mortality but also with increased cardiovascular-related mortality over the 15 years of follow-up. (Dong et al, 2009)
- It was also found that black older adult victims had significant higher mortality risk than white older adults in the same study cohort. (Dong et al., 2011b)



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THE UK RESPONSE

- Legislation and Policy
- Regulation (professional and service provision)
- Interventions (prevention and awareness)
- Interdisciplinary collaborations (national and international)



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“Innovation is achieving something **significant** that would otherwise would not happen, unless you are prepared to take the **risk** and do something special.”

Peter Wintlev-Jensen, former Deputy Head of Unit, European Commission DG CONNECT

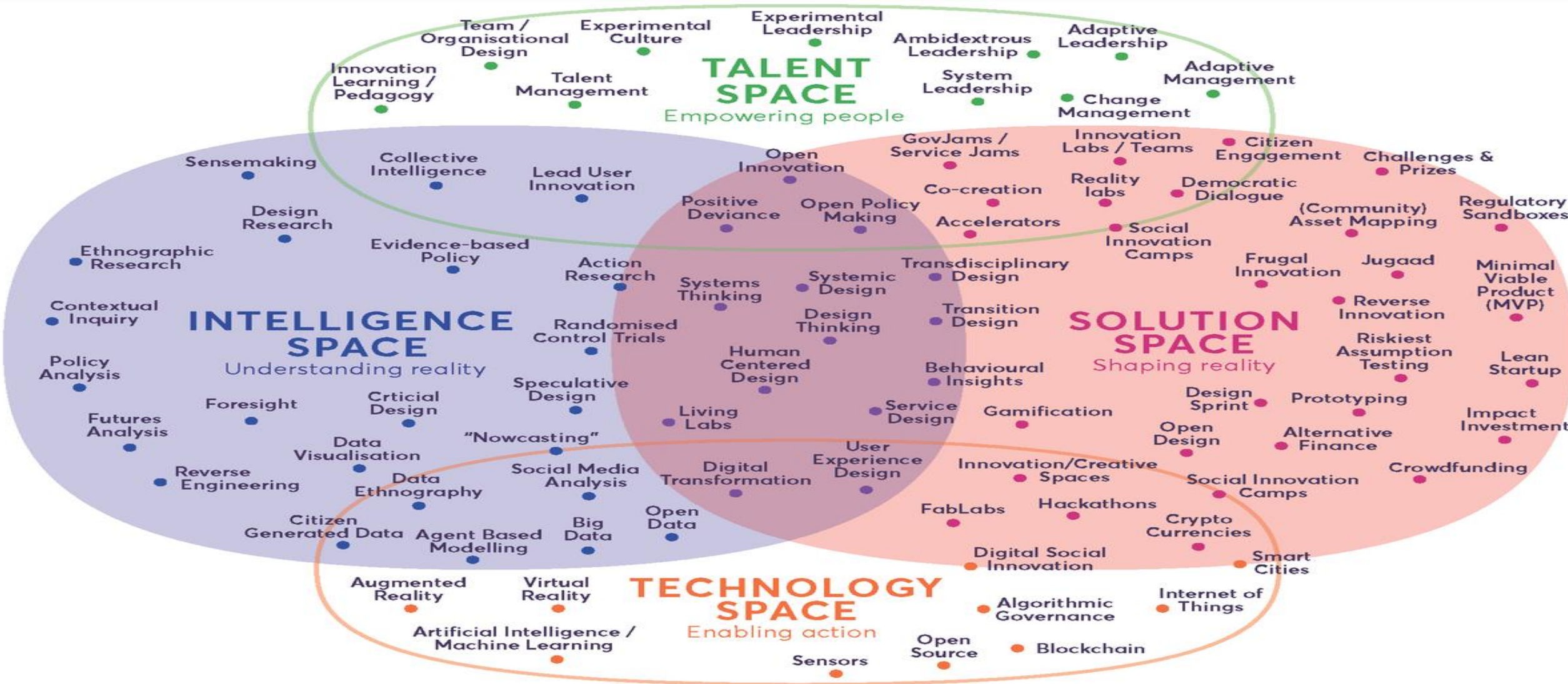




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Technological innovation

- The Internet of Things (IoT) – devices together with the networks and services they connect to, to create and build safety networks to facilitate alerts, reporting, interventions, and support.
- Surveillance strategies – active debate about the use of cameras in institutional settings (human rights, data protection, privacy issues, rights of healthcare workers)
- Digital witnessing reforms – to address issues around advocacy and safeguards to protect older adults from financial abuse
- Mainstream devices – smartphones, webcams, and cameras for recording and documenting incidents of abuse
- Digitally enabled reporting systems
- SMART home sensors and devices



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Social innovation

- 3rd sector organisations focused on abuse of older adults becoming more voluble and influential – campaigns, educational awareness initiatives
- The narrative is changing.
- Momentum building across the country challenging ageism, imagery, and lexicon.
- Design sector investing in initiatives and projects to build community and intergenerational cohesion
- Looking toward innovative new models for living in later life that preclude institutionalization and consumer-focused approaches.
- Significant efforts to bridge the digital divide, led by community groups, financial services, and Local Authorities.



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Jackie's Revolution



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POSITION STATEMENT

The institutional model of long-term care in the UK is not fit for purpose, is unsustainable, and does not reflect the advances of the 21st century.

The current model has contributed to the deaths of over 30,000 people before their time in the past year alone and has been plagued with intractable problems since inception.

Many of us dread it and do not want it for ourselves.

No government or modern society has been audacious enough to change it.

Currently, people battle for personal ownership and choice in how they live and die in late adulthood.

- Rhetoric, never-ending policy documents, and cyclical discourse does not serve us.
- Strategic vision is critical. Eschew self-serving leadership and install leaders for whom this is visceral.
- Policy commitment, the infrastructure, and the leadership to support educational, social, industrial and organizational innovation environments.
- Presence on the international stage. We have values, codes, culture, and creativity that the international community talks about. Find platforms to share them Be selective in what we adopt or import!
- Understand our strengths and our weaknesses – social, cultural, and work ethic.
- Engage with the unusual suspects.
- Cultural change is imperative. Use any means at our disposal.
- Go digital! Go intergenerational!
- Ageing is everybody's business and there is business in it for everybody. Tackling abuse of older adults as an economic enabler.



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Thank you. It's been a pleasure!

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