

Assessing and intervening in elder abuse

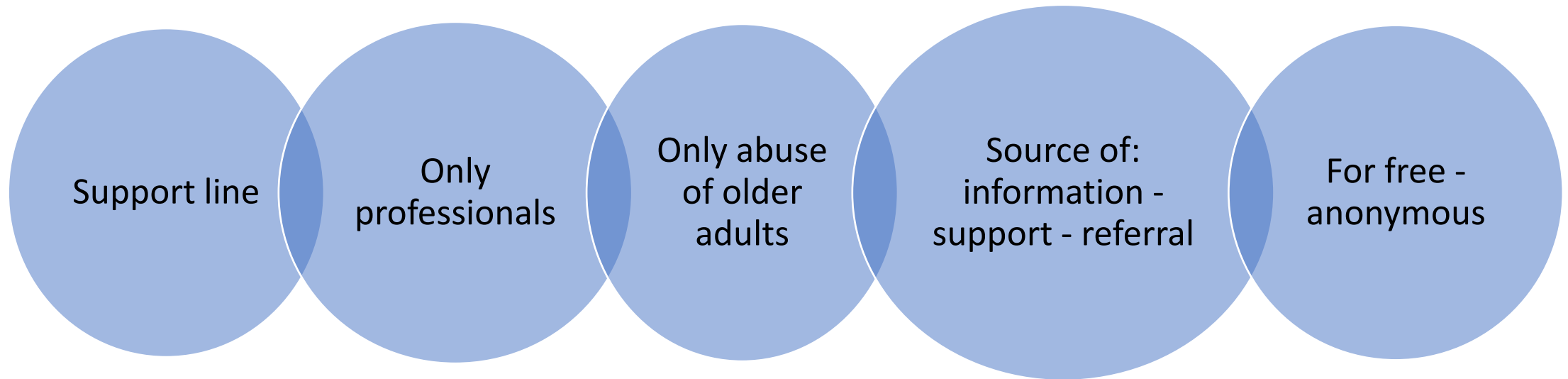


Flemish Supporting Centre on Elder Abuse

VLOCO

Vlaams Ondersteuningscentrum Ouderenmis(be)handeling

Tasks



Other tasks



What is elder abuse?



Definition abuse of older people

“a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person”

Action on Elder Abuse UK, 1995, p.5; WHO, 2002, p.3.

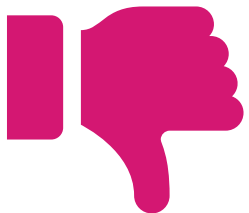
REAMI – Risk on Elder Abuse and Mistreatment Instrument



What?



- Short questionnaire (2 – 3 min)
- Checking your own suspicions - as you sense the situation yourself:
 - ➔ Observation
 - ➔ Signals



- In presence of elderly
- No questioning of victim - perpetrator - environment

REAMI – PART 1

To which extent do you agree with the following statements about the older person and their environment? (please tick boxes)											
A = I completely disagree				C = I rather agree							
B = I rather disagree				D = I completely agree							
PART 1											
To which extent do you feel that:											
						A	B	C	D		
... the older person is dependent on one key figure ¹ ? (e.g. for care, finances, administration, housing, ...)											
... the older person is isolated?											
... there are signals that the older person cannot handle the situation anymore? (e.g. signals of overburdening, fatigue, emotionality, irritation, short temper, indifference, feelings of powerlessness, frustration, anxiety, ...)											
... the older person faces physical constraints, dementia, depressive symptoms, addiction, psychiatric or psychosocial problems?											
... radical and stressful changes in the life of the older person have recently occurred? (e.g. moving, death of partner, ...)											
... there is a history of violence in the family?											
Total (Count how many times A and B, C and D are answered)											

¹ An older person often has a key figure in his/her community (particularly related to care). This person can, for instance, be a partner, an adult child (or his/her partner), a neighbour, or a professional. A key figure is someone close to the older person, and they share an emotional bond.

REAMI– PART 2

To which extent do you agree with the following statements about the older person and their environment? (please tick boxes)

A = I completely disagree

C = I rather agree

B = I rather disagree

D = I completely agree

PART 2

To which extent do you feel that:

	A	B	C	D
... the relationship between the key figure and the older person is problematic? (e.g. stress, tensions, conflicts, ...)				
... the relationship between the key figure and their close environment is problematic? (e.g. stress, tensions, conflicts)				
... the key figure is dependent on the older person?				
... the care, provided by the key figure for the older person, is too much?				
... the care knowledge of the key figure is insufficient?				
... the key figure is isolated?				
... there are signals that the key figure cannot handle the situation anymore? (e.g. signals of overburdening, fatigue, emotionality, irritation, short temper, indifference, feelings of powerlessness, frustration, anxiety, ...)				
... the key figure faces physical constraints, dementia, depressive symptoms, addiction, psychiatric or psychosocial problems?				
... the key figure has financial problems?				
... radical and stressful changes in the life of the key figure have recently occurred?				
Total (Count how many times A and B, C and D are answered)				

REAMI– PART 3

To which extent do you agree with the following statements about the older person and their environment? (please tick boxes)											
A = I completely disagree				C = I rather agree							
B = I rather disagree				D = I completely agree							
PART 3											
To which extent do you feel that:											
							A	B	C	D	
... there are signals of violation of rights? (e.g. hindered to read their mail, to meet friends or acquaintances, ...)											
... there are signals of emotional abuse and mistreatment? (e.g. feeling anxious, ashamed, threatened by accusations, being belittled, ...)											
... there are signals of neglect? (e.g. lack of getting dressed, groceries, meals, household											
... there are signals of financial abuse and mistreatment? (e.g. forced to sign papers or to give money or goods, forced changes to a will, sudden unexplainable changes in the financial situation, ...)											
... there are signs of physical abuse and mistreatment? (e.g. physically injured, assaulted, ...)											
... there are signs of sexual abuse and mistreatment? (e.g. unwanted touching, obliged to undress, ...)											
Total (Count how many times A and B, C and D are answered)											

TOTAL SCORE OF THE REAMI

Note down the totals from the grey boxes in part 1, part 2 and part 3.

Multiply these totals by the corresponding number (1,10 or 1000). Add these three numbers together.

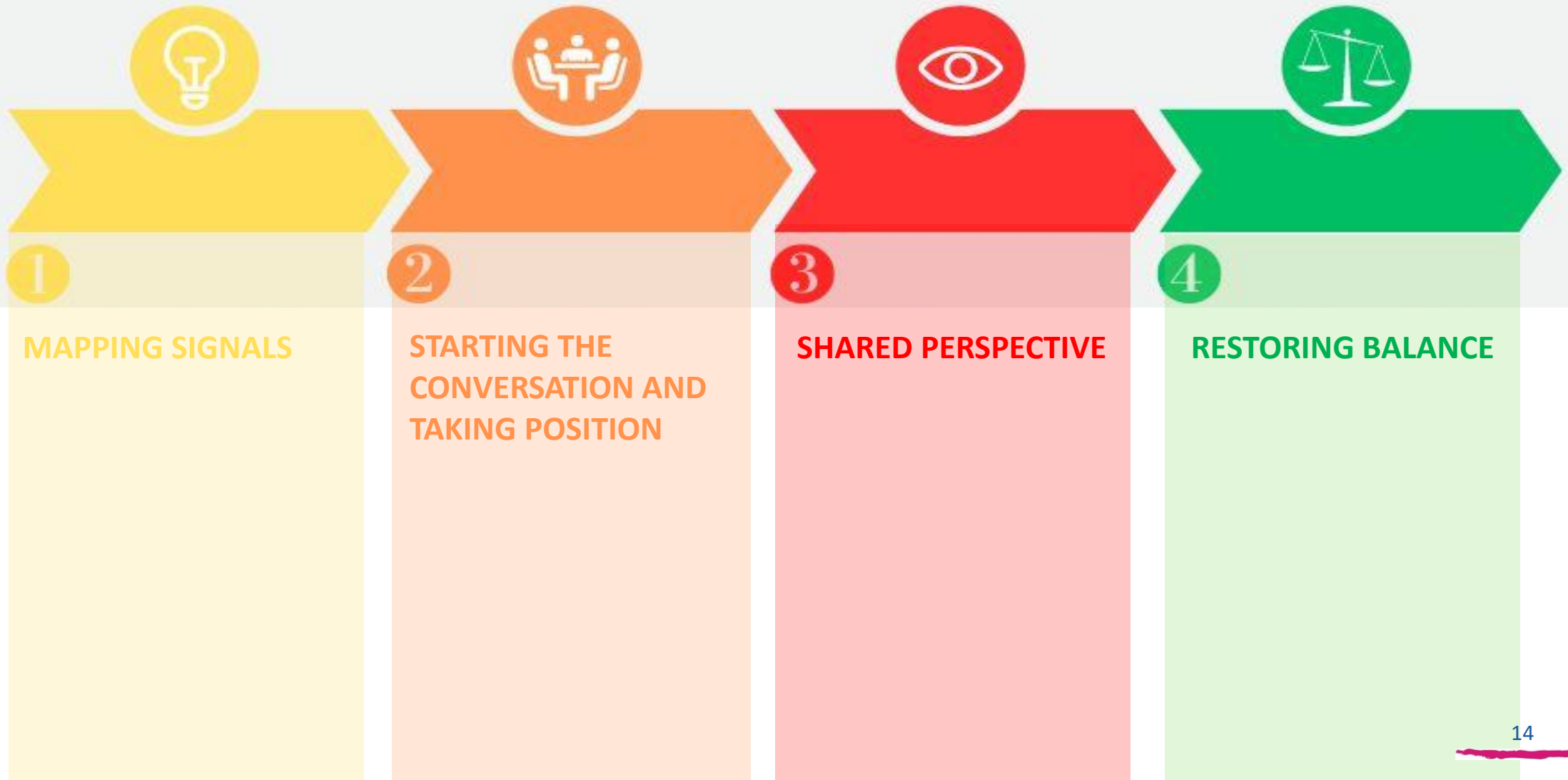
Part 1:		X 1	=
Part 2:		X 10	=
Part 3:		X 1000	=
		Total	=

Total	Explanation
0	The situation is good. There is no risk.
1/ 2/ 3/ 10 / 11	The older person has a low risk of elder abuse and mistreatment.
4/ 5/ 6/ 12 tot 106	The older person has a moderate risk of elder abuse and mistreatment. At this moment, there may be no visible signs of elder abuse and mistreatment; however, there is a moderate risk. Further attention is required.
1000 tot 6106	There are indications that the older person is being abused. There is a high risk of elder abuse and mistreatment.

Intervention of abuse of older people



Intervention of abuse of older people





Step 1. Mapping signals

- Physical / relational / psychological signs
- Active exploration (risk factors & protective factors)
- Risk assessment (REAMI) and degree of urgency

1. **Mapping signals**
2. Starting the conversation and taking position
3. Shared perspective
4. Restoring balance



Step 1. Mapping signals

Actively identifying signs is already an intervention And anonymous advice can always be sought

- Among colleagues
- In specialised services

1. **Mapping signals**
2. Starting the conversation and taking position
3. Shared perspective
4. Restoring balance



Step 2. Starting the conversation and taking position

- Communicating your concerns clearly
- Inform about the impact of violence & about your role

1. Mapping signals
2. **Starting the conversation and taking position**
3. Shared perspective
4. Restoring balance



Step 3. Shared perspective

- Problems are the signal of a system out of balance
- We agree something has to change

Following the client's pace but not letting go and intervening in cases of urgency



1. Mapping signals
2. Starting the conversation and taking position
3. **Shared perspective**
4. Restoring balance



Step 4. Restoring balance

- Removing risk factors and add protective factors
- Collaboration and partners in care and welfare add

Following the client's pace but not letting go and intervening in cases of urgency



1. Mapping signals
2. Starting the conversation and taking position
3. Shared perspective
4. **Restoring balance**

Risk Factors





Thank you for listening to us!

Get to know us better on www.caw.be



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