

# Self Neglect & Safeguarding: A literature review of the views of professionals & service users

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# Purpose and focus of the Literature Review

- Self Neglect not currently addressed in Safeguarding Procedures
- Notable time of change for Adult Social Care with forthcoming Care Bill
- No Secrets Review (2009) states service users feel they are not listened to
- Scoping exercise for a Doctoral Thesis
- Inform the debate on this complex area of practice.
- Identify empirical research that explored the experiences of service users & practitioners.
- Literature primarily drawn from U.S , UK, Ireland and Australia, from the year 2000 to present.

## Professional's view of Service Users

Range of physical and  
mental health problems

Disconnected from  
family/friends

Socially isolated

Significant life events,  
trauma, divorce, death  
of family members

Lack of social anchors

At risk from abuse from  
others in the  
community

## Service User's Views

Want time to be  
listened to

Respect their choices &  
lifestyle

Self neglect is a way  
of preserving self &  
control

Sense of pride &  
resilience

Do not see themselves  
as self-neglecting

Fear, inability to do  
things, e.g. after a health  
issue, fall.

Perceptions &  
Views of  
Service Users

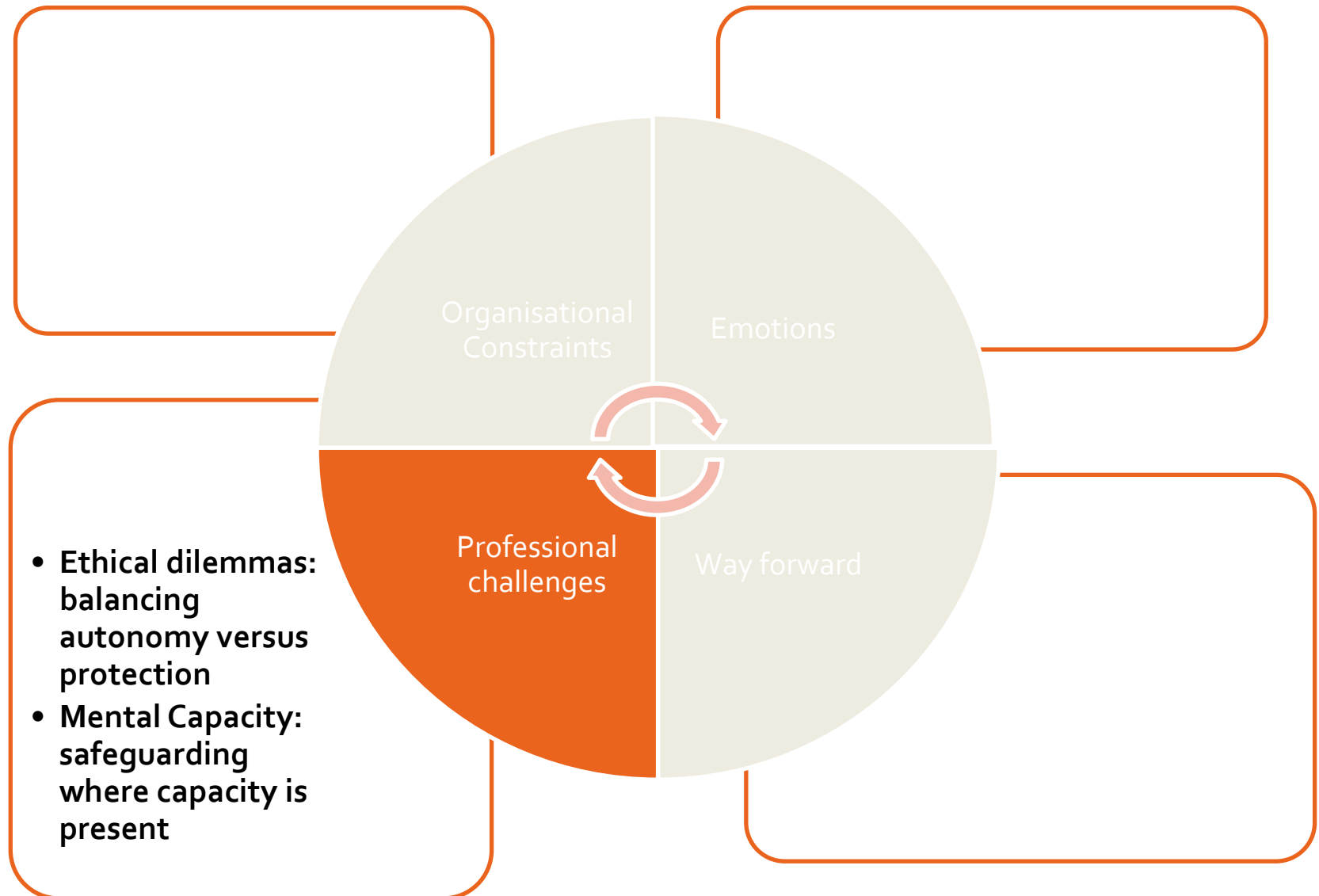
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graph LR; P1[Range of physical and mental health problems] -- red --> Center((Perceptions & Views of Service Users)); P2[Disconnected from family/friends] -- red --> Center; P3[Socially isolated] -- red --> Center; P4[Significant life events, trauma, divorce, death of family members] -- red --> Center; P5[Lack of social anchors] -- red --> Center; P6[At risk from abuse from others in the community] -- red --> Center; S1[Want time to be listened to] -- black --> Center; S2[Respect their choices & lifestyle] -- black --> Center; S3[Self neglect is a way of preserving self & control] -- black --> Center; S4[Sense of pride & resilience] -- black --> Center; S5[Do not see themselves as self-neglecting] -- black --> Center; S6[Fear, inability to do things, e.g. after a health issue, fall.] -- black --> Center;
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# Organisational Challenges

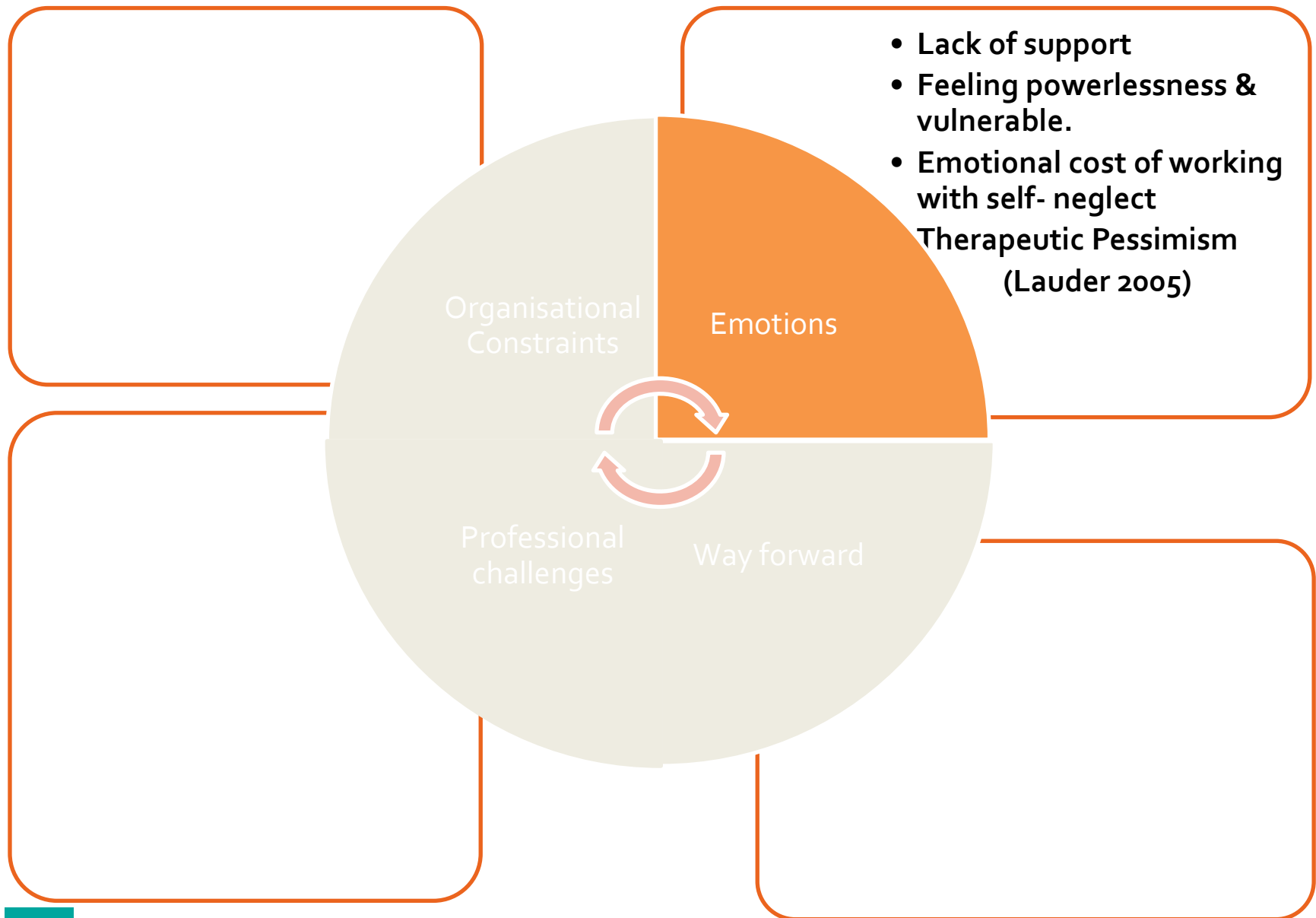
- Lack of a clear definition.
- Need for legislative, operational & practice guidance.



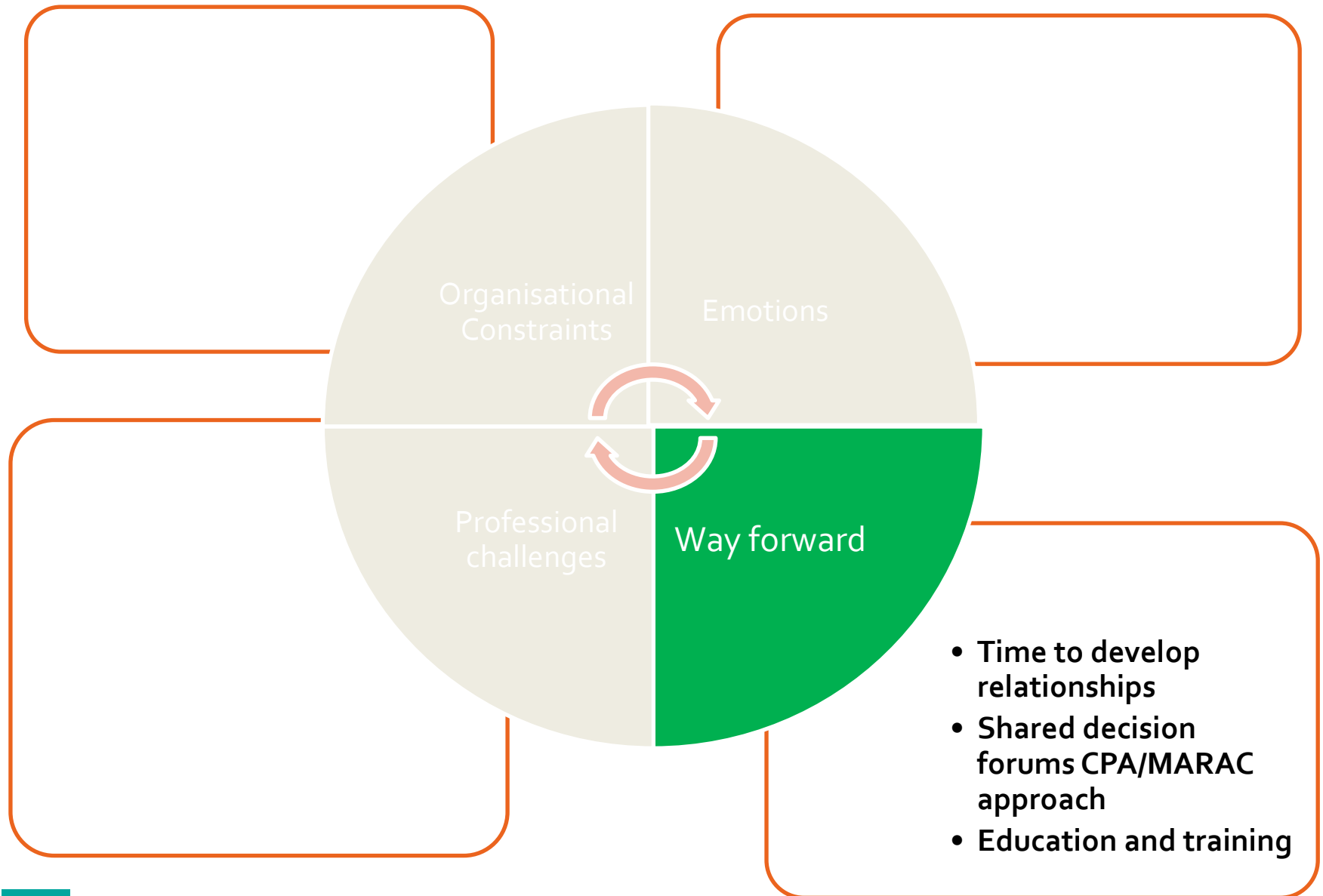
# Professional Challenges

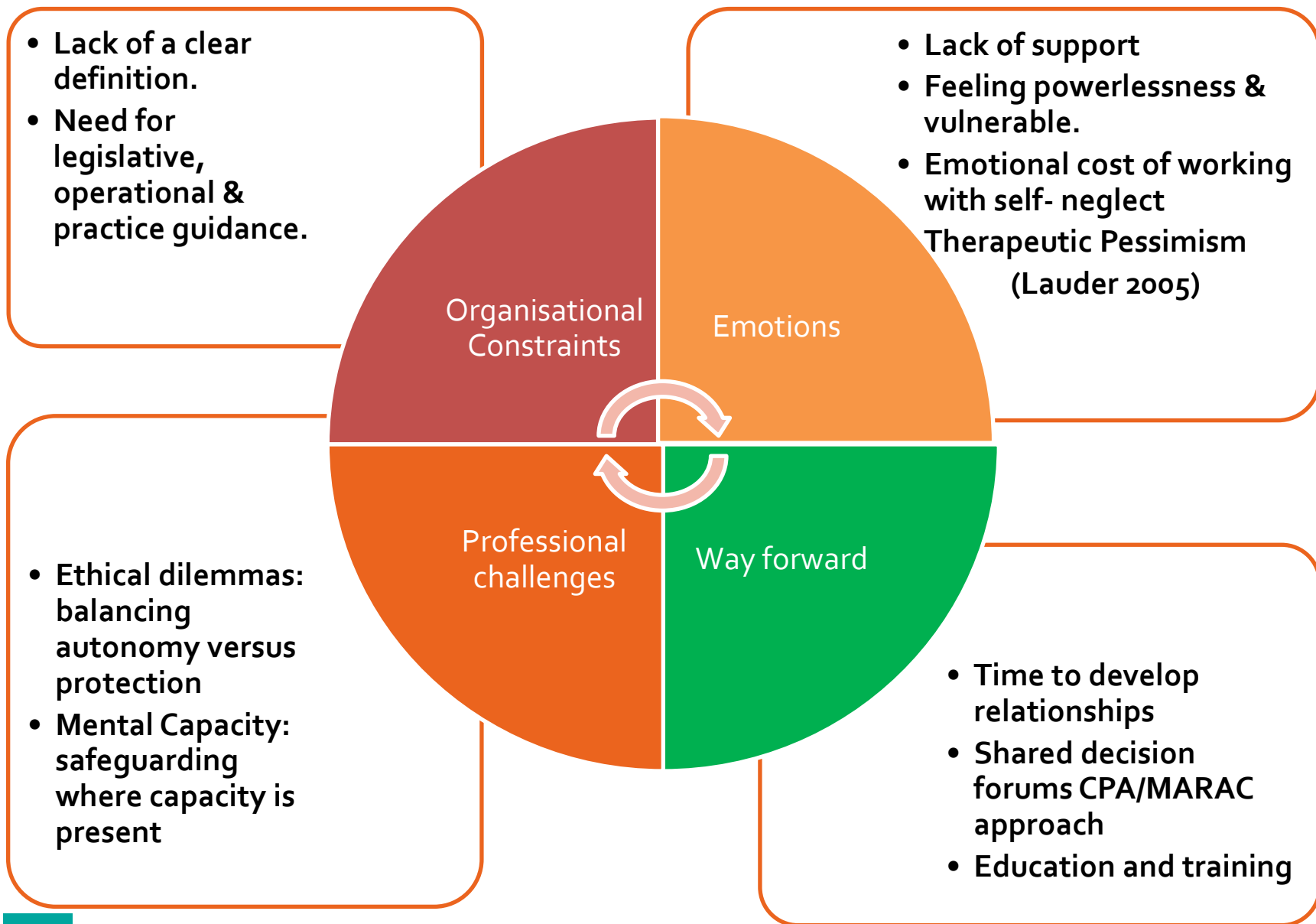


# Emotional Impact



# A Way Forward







# What is your experience?

**Does the literature reflect your experiences?  
If so how?**

**Do you think there are any gaps?**

**What do you feel are the priorities for your  
profession/service/Institution in supporting  
people who self neglect?**

# Key literature relating to self neglect and safeguarding

Band-Winterstein, T., Doron. I. and Naim.S. (2011) Elder self neglect: A geriatric syndrome or a life course story, *Journal of Aging Studies* 26:109-118.

Bozinovski, S. D. (2000) Older Self-Neglecters: Interpersonal Problems and the Maintenance of Self-Continuity, *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect*, 12 (1):37-56.

Braye, S., Orr, D. and Preston-Shoot, M. (2011) *Self-neglect and adult safeguarding: findings from research*, Adult Services SCIE report 46, Social Care Institute for Excellence. [online] Available at <http://www.scie.org.uk/publications/reports/report46.pdf>

Braye, S., Orr, D. & Preston-Shoot, M. (2013) *A scoping study of workforce development for Self neglect*. Leeds: Skills for Care.

Day, M., Mc Carthy, G. and Leahy-Warren, P. (2012) Professional Social Workers' Views on Self-Neglect: An Exploratory Study, *British Journal of Social Work*, 42(4):725-743.

# Key literature continued

Day, M.R., Leahy-Warren, P. and McCarthy, G. (2013), Perceptions and Views of Self-Neglect: A Client- Centred Perspective, *Journal of Elder Abuse and Neglect*, 25:37-56

Dyer, C. B., Toronjo, C., Cunningham, M., Festa, N.A., Pavlik, V. N., Hyman, D.J., Poythress, E.L. and Searle, N.S. (2005). The Key Elements of Elder Neglect: A Survey of Adult Protective Service Workers, *Journal of Elder Abuse & Neglect*, 17 (3):19-36.

Gunstone, S. (2003) Risk Assessment and Management of Patients whom Self-Neglect: a grey area for mental health workers, *Journal of Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing*, 10: 287-296.

Halliday, G., Banerjee, Philpot, M. & Macdonald, A. (2000) Community Study of People who Live in Squalor, *The Lancet*, 355(9207):882-886.

Kutame, M.M.(2007) '*Understanding self-neglect from the older person's perspective*', PhD Dissertation, Ohio State University. [online] available at <https://etd.ohiolink.edu>.

# Key literature continued

Lauder, W., Scott, P. A. and Whyte, A. (2001) Nurse's Judgements of self-neglect: a factorial survey, *International Journal of Nursing Studies*, 38 :601-608.

Lauder, W., Anderson, I., and Barclay, A. (2005) Housing and Self-Neglect: The Responses of health, social care and environmental agencies, *Journal of Interprofessional Care*, 19 (4):317-325.

Mc Dermott, S. (2009) Older People Living in Squalor: Ethical and Practical Dilemmas *Australian Social Work*, 62, (2): 245-257.

Mc Dermott, S. (2011) Ethical Decision Making in Situations of Self-Neglect and Squalor among Older People, *Ethics and Social Welfare*, 5 (1):52-71.