

Ageing Without Children:

What has **AI** got to do with It?

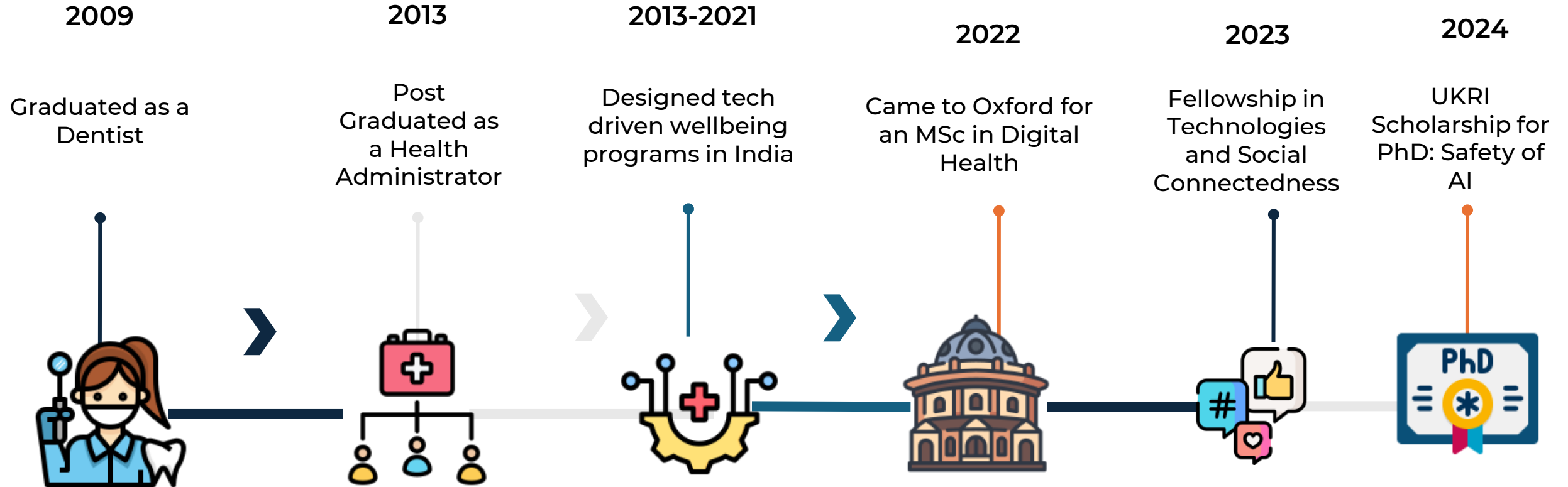
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UKRI
UK Research
and Innovation

About Me



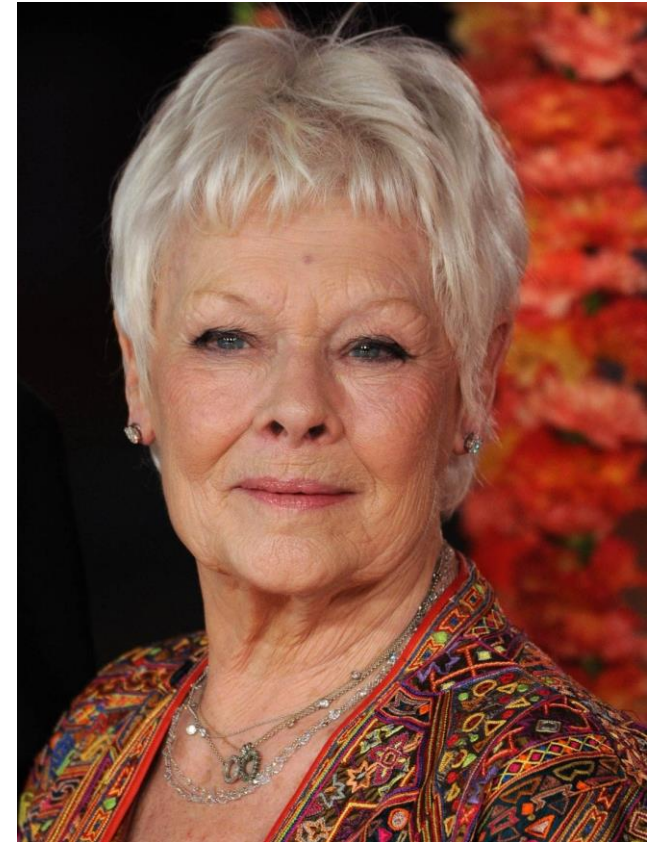
**My research aims to contribute to
making AI safer for the ageing
population...**

AWOC are a big part of it.

Who are older adults?



The ones with
inspiration, wisdom
and advancement!



Who are older adults?



They represent colour!

Who are older adults?



They represent life choices!

Who are older adults?



They
represent
abilities!

The World of Older People is DIVERSE

But we tend to look at them as just population numbers.

Let's look at some numbers



Age UK estimates that 2 million people aged 65+ have unmet needs for care and support for everyday life tasks

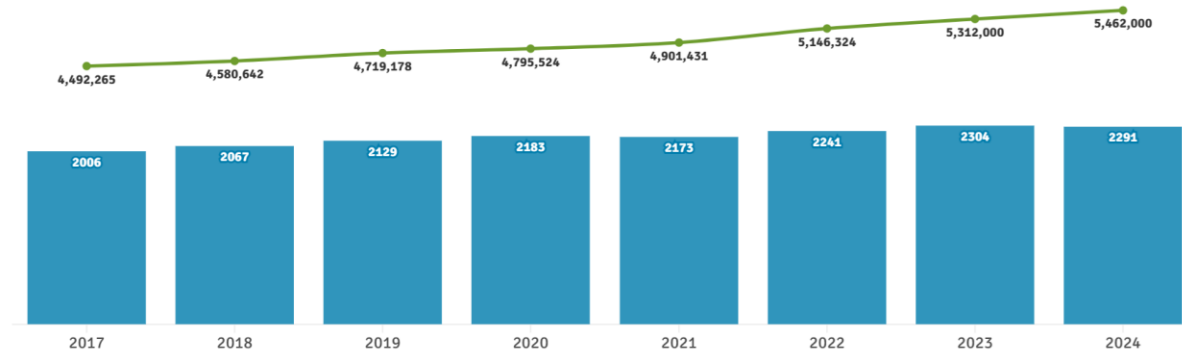
- dressing
- walking across a room
- bathing
- eating
- getting in and out of bed
- going to the toilet

Let's look at some numbers

Fig 2.10 Growth in the number of GPs is not keeping pace with population growth of older people aged 75+

Number of full-time equivalent GPs per 100,000 population, June 2017 to June 2024, England, against population estimates and projections of over 75's, mid 2017 to mid 2024.

■ Number of older people aged 75+ ■ Number of GPs



The health and social care sector is struggling to fill vacancies!

We need more “Care”...

Longevity

Longer life but
not healthier

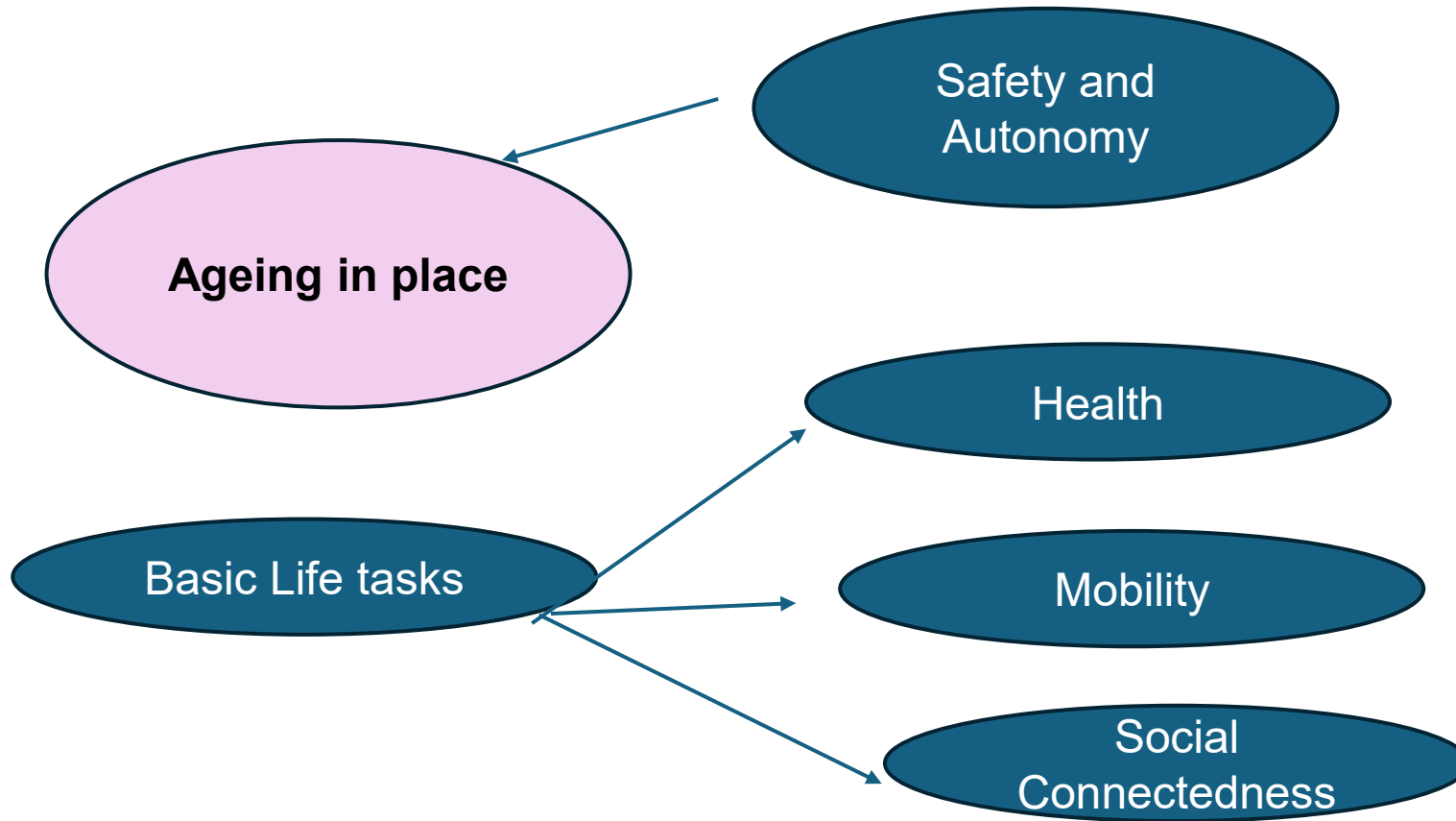
Emergency visits,
Hospital stays,
Follow up

Mainly informal
carers

68% UK older adults
by 2035, especially
AWOCs



Preferably at home!



But what has AI got to do with it?

What do we mean by AI?

Artificial Intelligence

*..the development of **computer systems** capable of **performing** tasks that typically require **human intelligence**, such as **reasoning, learning, decision-making, and perception...***

Computers cannot think, empathise or reason by themselves..... But these functions are being written for them!

Are you untouched by AI?



Smartphones



Social Media



Search Engines



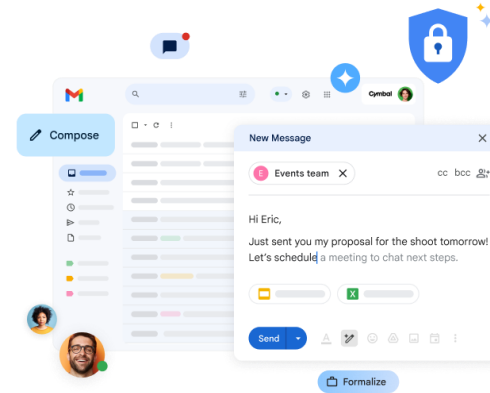
Payments, banking, e commerce



Online Maps



Digital Assistants



Emails



Surveillance cameras

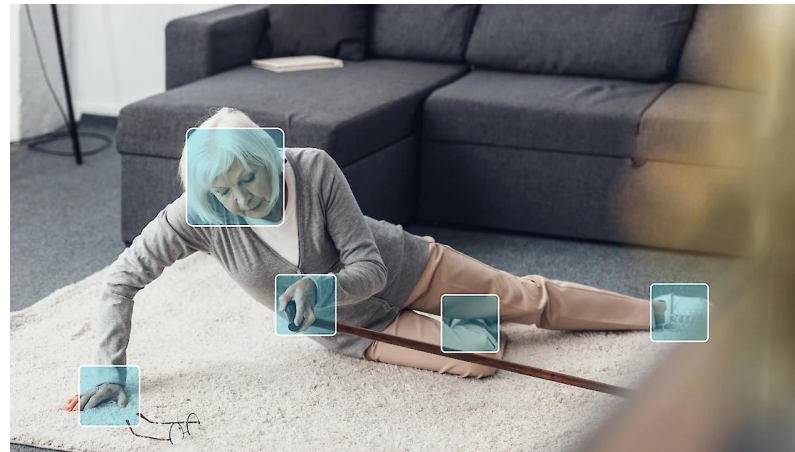
Are you untouched by AI?



Health Diagnosis



Clinical note taking

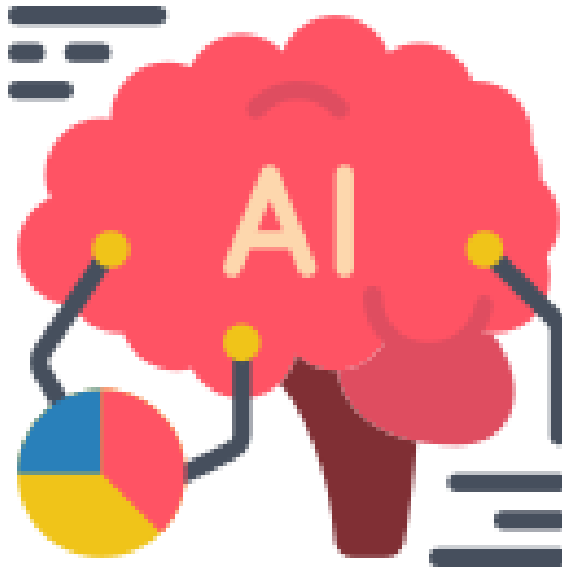


Fall detection

AI is as good as what makes it!



INFORMATION



PROCESSING +
LEARNING

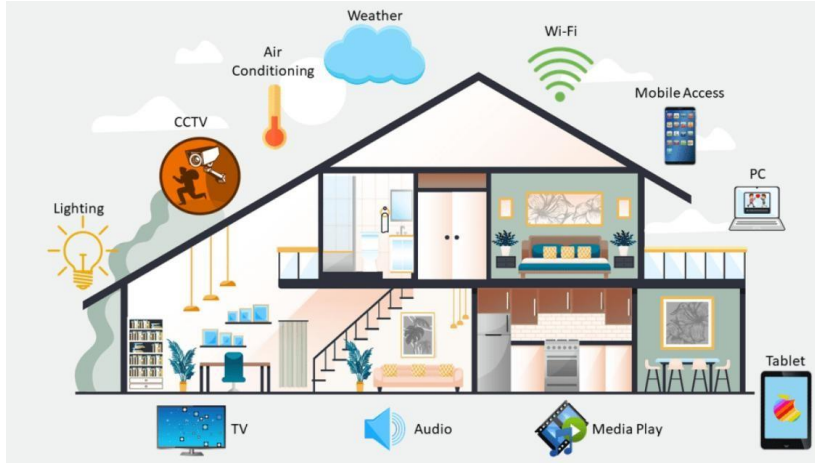


DECISION
MAKING



Can AI solve the care crisis?

AI is being imagined “to assist”....



**Cheaper Internet,
Social Media. Smart
gadgets**

**Collecting everyday
information**

Sense

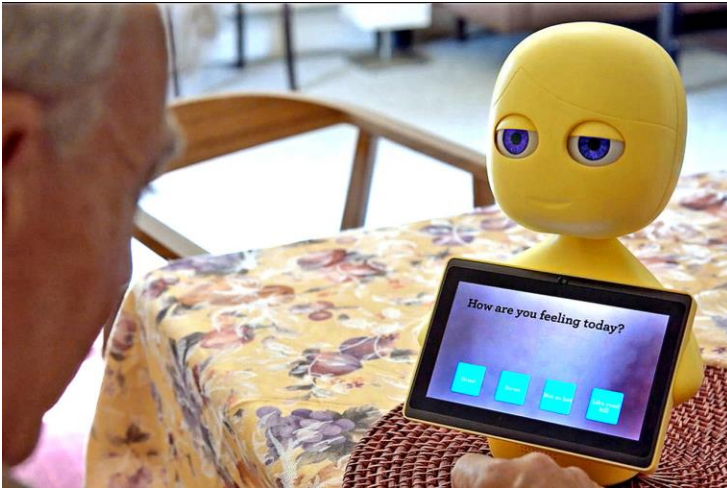
Monitor

Support

AI Assisted Living

**Saving physical labour,
Reducing anxiety**

Can it be Psychologically Safe?



Safety of AI: *“Protection from unacceptable risk of harm caused by the use of AI. The scope of this harm is posited to expand beyond physical harm to moral, social, and psychological harms.”* (Habli et. al 2025)

*“The expectation that humans perceive interaction with a technology as safe, and that the interaction does not result in any **unacceptable psychological harm such as stress or trauma.**”* (Lasota et al., 2017)

Especially for Older People!



Inclusion

Information

Independence

**The 3
'I's**

AI comes with Ethical Concerns



AI Safety

**Structural
Ageism in AI**

Chu et al., 2023

Vulnerability

**Potential Loss
of Self
Determination**

Fuchsberk 2009; Yuan et al., 2023

**Inadequate
agency**

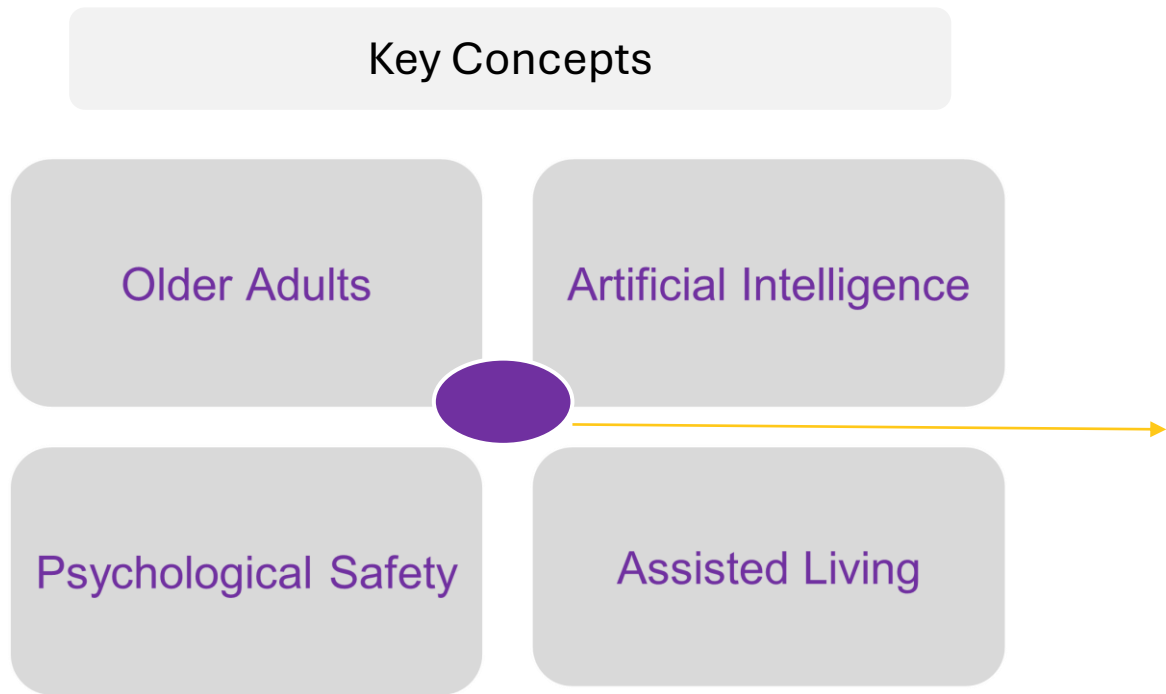
**Consent
Issues**

*Sun et al., 2009; Camilleri,
Dogramadzi and Caleb-
Solly, 2022*

Acceptability by stakeholders

Constanzio et al., 2024

My work: How can AI become safer for older adults if it is used for them?

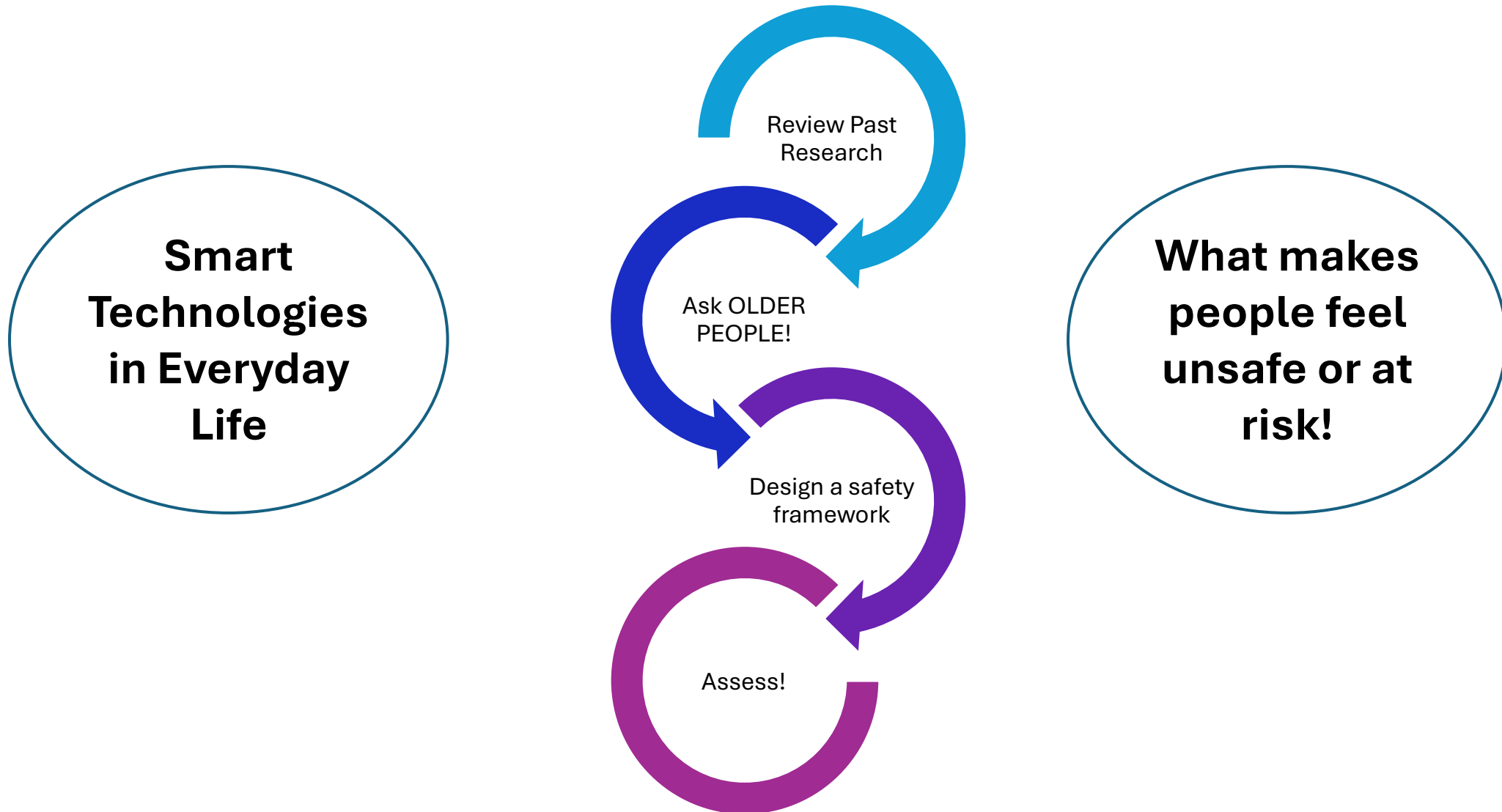


1. Define

2. Assess

3. Monitor

How will this work?



**If you are interested, write to
me!**

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The Silver LAIning Podcast

Exploring Ageing, Safety and AI with older people, carers, scientists each month!

Before we end: Some Safety Tips!

Protecting Your Data:

Never type your bank passwords, or specific health or personal details into an AI chatbot (like ChatGPT) or an online search engine

When your phone or tablet says, "Software Update Available," do it. These updates are like fixing a broken lock

The "Pause and Verify" Rule for scams/fakes

Scammers use AI to create a fake emergency like a "bank or income tax agent". If a caller asks for money or personal info, **hang up**.

Requests for payment via **Gift Cards** or **Wire Transfers**.

A link in an email that takes you to a website that **looks slightly "off"** or misspelled.

In fake videos, look for strange blinking patterns, blurry spots around the mouth, or robotic-sounding pauses in speech.

Establish a "Secret Word" with your family. If someone calls claiming to be a relative in trouble, ask for the secret word.

**THE REAL PROBLEM IS NOT WHETHER
MACHINES THINK BUT WHETHER MEN DO.**

- B. F. SKINNER -

Thank you for listening!

Happy to connect.

