

## Learning Report – Peter

### What were the circumstances that led to this SAR?

At the time of his death Peter was 66 years of age. There was evidence dating back sometime that Peter misused substances, and as a result he associated with other people who did the same.

Peter was vulnerable and was exploited by others who moved into his flat. When agencies tried to support Peter, he claimed they were his friends.



This exploitation of a vulnerable person, particularly by moving into their address has been referred to as ‘cuckooing’<sup>1</sup> and more recently as home invasion. This activity is often linked to the supply of class A drugs by people involved in drug supply routes referred to as County Lines<sup>2</sup>. There was evidence of persons involved in this type of offending exploiting Peter.

In October 2021, emergency services were called to Peter’s address following a report that someone had stabbed himself in the chest. Peter was pronounced as being deceased at the scene. After enquiries it was established that Peter had caused injury to himself.

The SAR was commissioned to establish if agencies could have worked together more effectively to support Peter.

---

<sup>1</sup> Cuckooing, National Crime Agency - A common feature in county lines drug supply is the exploitation of young and vulnerable people. The dealers will frequently target children and adults - often with mental health or addiction problems - to act as drug runners or move cash so they can stay under the radar of law enforcement. In some cases, the dealers will take over a local property, normally belonging to a vulnerable person, and use it to operate their criminal activity from. This is known as cuckooing.

<sup>2</sup> County Lines, National Crime Agency - County Lines is where illegal drugs are transported from one area to another, often across police and local authority boundaries (although not exclusively), usually by children or vulnerable people who are coerced into it by gangs. The ‘County Line’ is the mobile phone line used to take the orders of drugs.

Learning identified	What will help?
<p>Although there were concerns regarding Peter and how his situation presented a risk to him there was coordinated response was lacking regarding safeguarding concerns and consideration of potential self-neglect.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Timely safeguarding referrals</li> <li>• A greater awareness and use of the self-neglect and Complex Adult Risk Management Framework.</li> </ul> <p><a href="#">Link to CARM framework</a></p> <p><a href="#">Link to WSAB Self-Neglect Policy</a></p>
<p>Greater awareness and use of the cuckooing policy and a multi-agency approach to complex issues.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding Adults Board to work with Community Safety Partnerships to raise awareness of cuckooing and the signs that it is taking place and to promote the use of the cuckooing policy and the multi-agency approach.</li> </ul>
<p>Practitioners should review this case during reflective session, team meetings and case discussions</p>	<p>Areas to look at include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Be aware of the signs and signals that a person might be being exploited.</li> <li>➤ Be aware that a person may not recognise that they are being exploited because of their own vulnerabilities and their appreciation of the company and attention that they are receiving.</li> <li>➤ Recognise when a person is reaching out for support. These requests could be varied and not always obvious, for example they could include self-harm.</li> <li>➤ Be able to recognise where there are safeguarding concerns and know how to seek advice within your own organisation or make an appropriate safeguarding referral.</li> <li>➤ Where other conditions present, such as self-neglect or hoarding, be aware how these can be supported by a multi-agency approach and how this can be achieved. If you are unsure seek guidance from your safeguarding lead.</li> </ul>