

Learning Report - John



What were the circumstances that led to this SAR?

John died in March 2022; at the time of his death, he was 54 years of age. Over a period of years John had become very well known to agencies. He misused substances, namely alcohol and street purchased Oramorph.

He suffered the loss of his mother in 2015 and his father in 2022. This loss of his family network had a significant impact on him.

There had been a history of concerns over John neglecting his own care and there were repeated occasions where he attended hospital following self-inflicted medication overdoses some of which we believed was intentional. In March 2022, John was found deceased at his home address.

It was agreed that whilst this case did not meet the criteria for a full Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR), given that some of the areas of concern were similar to previous SAR themes a strategic review should take place.

What was the nature of the abuse or neglect?

The main theme of this review was one of self-neglect. Previous reviews have been undertaken regarding self-neglect. These indicated that professionals were challenged by cases where there was obvious self-neglect, but the person was deemed to have mental capacity to make the relevant decisions.

This was often complicated when the person was deemed to have mental capacity which fluctuated or where there was evident substance misuse.

Learning identified	What will help?
<p>Self-Neglect is a complex area and one that requires a multi-agency and coordinated approach.</p>	<p>You should make sure that you are aware of the Worcestershire Self Neglect Guidance and Pathways.</p> <p>https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/documents/self-neglect-policy-final-v2-2/</p> <p>Make sure that you are aware of the Complex Adult Risk Management Framework and refer where appropriate.</p> <p>https://www.safeguardingworcestershire.org.uk/carm-complex-adult-risk-management/</p> <p>Ensure you discuss complex cases as part of your supervision and reflective practice session.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">If you are in doubt – ask!</p>
<p>Making Safeguarding Personal</p>	<p>Make sure that you explore and discuss the preferred methods for contacting a person for future contact</p>
<p>Managing Risk</p>	<p>Any agency which becomes aware of a specific risk presented by a person they are delivering services to, should consider the need to make other agencies appropriately aware of that potential risk.</p>