



## Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board

### Learning Brief – Safeguarding Adults Review or Lessons Learnt Review

A Safeguarding Adults Review is held when an adult in the local authority area dies as a result of abuse or neglect whether known or suspected and there is a concern that partner agencies could have worked more effectively to protect the adult or when an adult in the area has not died, but the SAB knows or suspects that the adult has experienced significant abuse or neglect.

The purpose of a Safeguarding Adults Review is to learn the lessons about how professionals and organisations work together and to consider how the learning can be used to improve practice for others in the future.

Learning Lessons are completed when a case does not meet the threshold for a SAR but BSAB believes that learning from the case can be obtained.

Adults may have died but they can be completed for adults who did not die, but were harmed.

The main reasons to complete a lessons learnt is to

- ✓ Identify good practice and cascade it
- ✓ Identify areas for individual agency or multi agency growth and change
- ✓ When appropriate agree an action plan that will be monitored by BSAB and its sub groups

Case Identifier – Mrs T

Date of Review – completed 2 November 2018

Date of learning brief – November 2018

Author (s) – Cath Erine - BSAB Board Manager

Date Agreed by Pathways and Partnership/BSAB - December 2018

Learning brief – approved December 2018

## Case Summary

- ✓ MRS T was 86, when she died in a house fire in May 2018. The cause of the fire was thought to be the metal coal bucket. The property was described a medium level hoarding?
- ✓ MRS T was visited by her son daily as her main carer, though he did not live in Barnsley. MRS T was visited by community nurses twice weekly to dress her legs and they used paraffin based creams
- ✓ MRS T had recently been diagnosed with breast cancer, she had memory issues and compromised mobility
- ✓ MRS T had a history of domestic abuse perpetrated by her husband, who died some years ago. This left MRS T with high levels of anxiety, which she minimised.
- ✓ MRS T would accept support but was clear about boundaries, later in her life her son made choices about discontinuing care though there was no capacity assessment to indicate MRS T could not make this decision for herself

## Learning points and practice reflections

### 1 – Do we consistently use the hoarding tools included in the Self Neglect and Hoarding Policy and do we know when to use it?



#### Questions for practitioners

- ✓ Do we routinely evaluate the hoarding and the fire risks to the adult and others around them?
- ✓ Do we encourage the adult to take up a free home safety check from South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue
- ✓ Do we know how to make a referral to SYFR?
- ✓ Would we know when hoarding and /or self-neglect has escalated to the point a multi-agency response is required? If so how would you action this?
- ✓ Have you read the policy or received any training on managing self-neglect and/or hoarding?
- ✓ At what point would you consider seeking legal advice on options to manage the risks

### 2. Role of family as carers and advocates?



#### Questions for practitioners

- ✓ Do we check if family have any legal powers to speak/make decisions on behalf of the adult, especially if we have no reason to question the adult's capacity to make decisions in their own right
- ✓ How can we be sure that family members are "a force for good" and their actions are not coming from a place of self-interest or embarrassment about the self-neglect/hoarding
- ✓ If family are likely to bring about positive engagement or behaviour, how can you engage them and still stay within GDPR legislation
- ✓ How do you know that families are accurately representing the views of the adult, especially if accepting the views of the family member will result in the adult not accessing services they have been assessed as needing?
- ✓ Would you consider checking with other services what contact they have had with family members and its impact on the adults
- ✓ Do we recognise family members as carers and offer them assessments to provide support