

01

Background

Gaynor lived in her own property with her adult son and her brother who had both recently returned to live with her. She was 73 years old. Gaynor was retired from nursing. She was the mother of four adult children. Her granddaughter had been placed at the property by Child Social Care. Gaynor was independent of services. In the last year of her life her physical health had deteriorated but her family and services were unaware of the increasing difficulties with which she presented. Services were involved with the family working with Gaynor's adult son and her granddaughter.

02

Safeguarding concerns

Concerns were raised after the tragic unexpected death from natural causes of Gaynor. These concerns focused on the knowledge known about the family from agencies which was not shared. There was a failure to view Gaynor as a vulnerable adult and a number of expectations made of her as a mother and grandmother.

03

The incident

Gaynor died unexpectedly from natural causes. Concerns were raised about the level of injuries to her body caused possibly by neglect and self-neglect.

04

The review

The review considered the following themes:

- The interface between adult and children's multi agency services.
 - Self-neglect and neglect
- Missed opportunities to raise a safeguarding concern
 - Professional Curiosity
 - Think Family Approach
 - Referral Pathways and case closure
 - Oversight of safeguarding concerns
- Organisations working in Partnership and Accountability
- Cause or allow a vulnerable person to come to serious harm

05

The findings

- Agencies working with other family members failed to recognise Gaynor as a vulnerable person
- Expectations from agencies that as a mother and grandmother Gaynor ought to undertake caring responsibilities for others.
- A "think family" approach was not undertaken by either children or adult services
- Failure to follow safeguarding procedures to address concerns within the family
- Unilateral case closure when there are no access visits
 - Availability of a combined assessment tool to measure the impact of neglect and self-neglect is used in adult services

07

Implementing Change

- Reflect on the findings and discuss the implications for your service/practice.
- Identify and outline the steps you and your team will take to improve practice in line with the findings and recommendations

06

Recommendations

- A multi-agency assessment tool to assess the risk of harm from neglect and self-neglect must be developed within adult services.
- Children's and Adult Social Care to jointly develop the team around the family approach to their care offers and take a shared approach to the accountability and responsibility of practitioners to recognise and respond to safeguarding concerns for all family members.
- Practitioners who work predominantly within children's Services need to undertake at least Level 1 adult safeguarding training.

Gaynor

