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Safeguarding Adult Review

Section 44 of the Care Act 2014 stipulates that the Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) has a responsibility to authorise the commissioning of a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR). A review is required to be undertaken if the Board considers that there is significant learning to be gained across partner agencies.

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Background

Cheryl lived with her husband, who appeared to be Cheryl's main carer. The couple were very much dependent upon each other and had made a promise to each other that in the event of declining health of either person, that external services would not be accessed to care for the person. Cheryl was described as a "private person" and was likely to have been uneasy at accepting support with her care. Cheryl had been married for a significant period of time and had not had children. Cheryl lived in her own home and maintained contact with the wider family. She enjoyed holidays with her husband and friends. Previous to her illness Cheryl had worked. Her illness meant that Cheryl presented with verbal communication difficulties. Consequently this encouraged practitioners to seek history from her husband rather than Cheryl. Cheryl sadly died in July 2020, as a result of chronic Left ventricular Failure, Ischemic Heart Disease and Diabetes Mellitus.

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Learning Resources

Link to:-
GM guidance for nonattendance of appointments

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Recommendations

Wishes and beliefs of the client are fully documented and guide the assessment.
Capacity of family carers to undertake the role of meeting the care needs of their loved ones to be formally assessed
Clients/carers, need to be helped directly to be referred to other services to access further support
Potential safeguarding concerns to be considered in all assessments
GM guidance non-attendance of appointments is implemented

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Safeguarding Adult Review Cheryl

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SAR Themes

- Professional curiosity
- The perception of the role of family as carers.
- The quality of support offered.
- Making safeguarding personal:-
- Supportive decision making with people with capacity
- Professional approach to explore power and balance.
- Discussions regarding pathways of care.
- Assessment with Mental health and links with Mental Capacity

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Learning

Carers should be supported to undertake a role which is likely to become more demanding.
Assessments are required to assess needs which are expressed as well as those which remain nonverbal and mindfully consider any safeguarding concerns
Rationales which clients and their families may have for refusing care need to be explored

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Good Practice

The Ambulance Service consistently made good assessment of Cheryl and her needs and appropriately reported concerns to the relevant services who could provide Cheryl and her husband with the care which the ambulance service believed to be necessary. In contrast other services, whilst being sympathetic to Cheryl and her husband, appeared to review Cheryl's care needs from her husband's perspective.

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