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Background

Information Technology was Robert's vocation when he passed away at 53. He initially contacted services in August 2022, where he disclosed a significant issue with alcohol. The same month, he attempted suicide by overdosing on CBD oil, and paramedics were dispatched to his home; he admitted to consuming two bottles of wine and eleven cans of lager daily. Alcohol abuse, as opposed to mental illness, was identified as the underlying cause of his condition, which led to his discharge from AWP. Between August and his death in January 2023, AWP, GWH, the police, SWAS, and Turning Point all had contact with him.

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The Purpose of a Safeguarding Adult Review:

Empowerment: To understand how Robert was encouraged to participate in his care and make independent decisions.
Prevention: The learning gained will be applied to prevent future harm to others.
Proportionality: Agencies to determine if the services offered to Robert are least intrusive and proportional to the risk.
Protection: The learning gained will be used to keep others safe.
Partnership: Agencies will aim to understand how well they collaborated and apply what they learned to improve partnership performance and safeguarding.
Accountability: Transparency and accountability are crucial for safeguarding procedures. For the review, explore and discuss the accountability of agency choices.
 Ensure that Robert's voice is heard regarding his lived experiences and the impact of alcohol and self-neglect on his wellbeing. Allowing his journey to be told and identifying the lessons that may be learnt.

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Resources and further information:

- [Multi-agency policy and guidance on responding to self-neglect](#)
- <https://capacityguide.org.uk/>
- [Mental capacity act](#)
- [Professional curiosity resource pack](#)
- <https://alcoholchange.org.uk/about-us/the-alcohol-change-report>

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MSP and Professional Curiosity

The Care Act 2014 guidance stipulates that adult safeguarding practice must be person-centred and outcome-focused, with MSP as the recommended safeguarding strategy alongside the other six safeguarding principles. Professional curiosity consists of attentively listening to a person's story without passing judgment or making assumptions. Robert declined support even though it was apparent he was struggling to control his drinking, as evidenced by the photographs, which revealed he was not eating, suffering from severe injuries sustained from falls, and was unable to sleep or attend to his care, as reported by Michelle.

Alcohol and Safeguarding

The Care Act applies to individuals who are experiencing alcohol issues, and in particular, self-neglect.

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Multi-Agency Working

Multi-agency working allows practitioners to evaluate an individual's issues from multiple perspectives rather than focusing on one area.

5

Think Family

Research findings consistently demonstrate that female family carers endure a greater degree of substantial psychological suffering, shame, and carer load.

Any adult over 18 who provides care for a disabled, older adult or ill adult is entitled to a carer's assessment under Section 10 of the Care Act 2014. The carers' mental and physical health, capacity, willingness to provide care, and interpersonal relationships should be discussed during these assessments.

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Legal Literacy

Three primary legislative measures can be employed to safeguard and support individuals who are dependent on alcohol:

- The Care Act 2014
- The Mental Capacity Act 2005
- The Mental Health Act 1983 (amended 2007)

Alcohol Dependence and Mental Health

Alcohol is a depressant and can alter the equilibrium of chemical messengers in the brain, influencing behaviour, emotions, and ideas.

Alcohol can impair the processing of information by the brain and make it more difficult to discern one's genuine emotions and the potential repercussions of one's actions.

