

7 Minute Brief – SAR Wendy

Background:

Wendy was 60 years old and was previously a Nurse at GWH. Wendy was White British and her first language was English. Wendy had a visual impairment and mental health needs including depression and anxiety. Wendy lived in a sheltered housing scheme, with support from District Nursing, carer agency, SBC Housing and AWP services. Wendy's pattern of [self-neglect](#) was closely related to her mental health. Wendy's experience of being struck off from nursing greatly impacted upon her. She was described as fiercely independent by her family.

Professional Curiosity and Mental Capacity Act 2005:

There was evidence of the Mental Capacity Act not being used to its full potential. There was evidence of inconsistent approaches and an assumption of capacity. Professionals needed to be more curious around Wendy's capacity and consider executive functioning. Duty of care vs. Autonomy was the theme.

[Professional Curiosity Resource Pack](#)

[Mental Capacity Act overview](#)

[Mental Capacity Act 7 Minute Briefing](#)

Learning Resources:

[Self-Neglect](#)

[Research in Practice: Working with self-neglect](#)

Procedures Online - [Self-Neglect, capacity and consenting to care](#)

[Multi-Agency Meeting Guidance Working with Adults](#)



Working with Complex Adults:

Professionals did not always maintain consistency in how Wendy was supported. When Wendy refused care and support this became challenging for professionals in knowing what to do next. This links with professionals knowing their legal literacy.

[SCIE Self-Neglect at a glance](#) has a helpful section that outline relevant legislation. This can also be found on the Self-Neglect Policy and Guidance below.

Multi-Disciplinary Team Working:

MDT working was inconsistent. There is good practice shown for elements of MDT working, however all the relevant people were not included in meetings. When the safeguarding process ended there was no agreed lead professional and communication and information sharing started to drop off, impacting greatly on Wendy's wellbeing.

Making Safeguarding Personal:

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. Was not always included in safeguarding meetings, nor was there an agreed process or trusted person set to feedback to Wendy the outcomes. There was evidence that Wendy was not happy about the safeguarding process and her views were not reflected.

Self-Neglect Policy and Guidance:

The Policy and Guidance was not known about or utilised. Familiarise yourself with the Policy and Guidance [HERE](#).