

7 Minute Brief – SAR Richard

Reason for SAR and background:

Richard was a white British man who lived alone. He was 70 years old. Richard was a qualified Physicist, in his younger years Richard worked in research, he enjoyed building amplifiers and computer programming. Richard is described by his sister as having a keen sense of humour and who loved to make 'puns'. Richard enjoyed listening to music, particularly opera's such as Wagner and Strauss. Richard also enjoyed listening to pop music such as Madonna. Richard had a diagnosis of schizophrenia and his property was known to be unkempt. Professionals were unaware of the network around him and found it challenging to engage with Richard around support with his home environment.

Professional Curiosity:

There were missed opportunities to fully understand and explore Richard's situation, rather than accepting his assurances that he was fine and his refusals to allow professionals into his accommodation. By embracing a more inquisitive and questioning approach, workers might have gained a better understanding of Richard's condition, identified any triggers or signs that he was struggling.

[Professional Curiosity Resource Pack](#)

Learning Resources:

[Self-Neglect](#)

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

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

[Care Act Guidance](#)



Information sharing

There were missed opportunities to provide detailed handovers including risk and salient information regarding Richard's circumstances, when transferring internally between teams and external agencies.

[Effective Information Sharing and Consent](#)

[Legal Training 1 – Consent, Capacity and Information Sharing](#)

Multi-Disciplinary Working:

There was some evidence of MDT working however this was inconsistent. There were missed opportunities to bring together all relevant professionals at critical points to discuss Richard, share insights and risks. It was also clear agencies were not aware of each other's involvement and how they were supporting Richard.

The Care Act 2014

The Care Act 2014 guidance states the person with care and support needs is best placed to judge what is important to their wellbeing. It is critical people are supported to take a lead in the process of exploring and defining their circumstances and what is important to them. There were missed opportunities to ensure Richard was at the centre of decisions regarding his care and support needs and ensuring his voice was heard.

Policy and Guidance:

The Self-Neglect Policy and Guidance was not known or utilised by any agency. Familiarise yourself with the Policy and Guidance [HERE](#).