

7 Minute Brief – SAR Ethan

Reason for SAR and background:

Ethan was a 62 years old white British male who moved to Swindon about 7 years old. He had two adult children with his long-term partner. This relationship ended about 10 years ago. Prior to his father's death in 2018, Ethan was his carer. Ethan had a stroke some years previously and it is possible this may have had an impact on his self-care and pattern of self-neglect. Ethan was found deceased in his home in January 2024. Several referrals for support were received by adult social care and Ethan often declined support.

Professional Curiosity and Being Supported by the Right Team at the Right Time:

Professionals struggled to make and maintain contact with Ethan. Professional Curiosity is a combination of looking, listening, asking direct questions, checking out and reflecting on information received. It can require practitioners to think 'outside the box', beyond their usual professional role, and consider families' circumstances holistically.

For Ethan this meant that professionals missed opportunities for early interventions.

[Professional Curiosity Resource Pack](#)

Learning Resources:

[Self-Neglect](#)

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

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

[Multi-Agency Meeting](#)

[Guidance Working with Adults](#)

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

[Sharing](#)



Working with Complex Adults:

Professionals did not start working with Ethan earlier enough so early opportunities to build a relationship with him were missed. Taking early opportunities to build rapport and trust with those experiencing self-neglect is key, in particular where situations can be complex and care and support refused.

[Working with resistance or disguised compliance learning brief](#)

Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) Working:

MDT working was inconsistent. There is good practice shown for elements of MDT working and periods of time where MDT working was effective and led to some positive actions. There was swift allocation for environmental health concerns and effective working together shown. Sustaining and building on this was a challenge.

Clear Decision Making Rational and Recordings:

Having clear records of the level of risk and concern, such as the experience and impact of Ethan's home environment on his physical and psychological wellbeing would have assisted other professionals in determining the urgency of the risk and concerns.

Good record keeping is essential in professional accountability and management of risk and concerns. Decision making was not always clearly recorded and would have given a clearer picture of chronology, supporting evidence-based working.

Self-Neglect Policy and Guidance:

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