

# 7 Minute Brief – SAR Sally

## Reason for SAR and background:

Swindon Safeguarding Partnership (SSP) commissioned a mandatory Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) to explore how well partners respond to concerns regarding cuckooing and self-neglect.

Sally was a white British woman, aged 48, who experienced domestic abuse, exploitation (including cuckooing) and self-neglect including her health needs. She was found deceased in her home in February 2024.

She had previously come to the attention of police, social care, health partners and voluntary sector.

## Exploitation and Cuckooing

The review of SAR Sally highlighted that responses to exploitation and cuckooing are too heavily focused on criminal or civil sanctions.

For Sally this meant that too little regard was given to supporting her longer-term recovery and wellbeing in a trauma-informed way. This increased the risk of re-victimisation and resulted in a deterioration in her health and escalation of her social care needs.

The SSP website has some information on adult exploitation. Wiltshire Police have more information here.

## Learning Resources:

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

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

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

[Exploitation Learning Brief](#)



## Working with Complex Adults:

Sally mostly came to the attention of services when in times of crisis and this was usually emergency responders such as Police, SWAST, A&E and Mental Health Liaison.

Team around the person approaches were not triggered which meant that there was no MDT working. Safeguarding processes were not considered.

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

## Multi-Agency Working & Mental Capacity:

There was evidence at times of good multi-agency working. However, the lack of a lead professional to co-ordinate care may have been a reason why professionals didn't consider whether Sally had the executive functioning to co-ordinate her own care and may have lacked capacity in this area.

## Multiple Needs:

Sally had needs relating to her physical health, mental health, complex trauma, domestic abuse, exploitation, including cuckooing and a history of addiction.

Sally was offered multiple onward referrals, her ability to follow up and reach out to these agencies was not considered. What reasonable adjustments did Sally need to accept this support? Having a lead professional would have meant that support could have coordinated and this may have led to Sally being able to access support.

## Self-Neglect Policy and Guidance:

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