

# Safeguarding Adults Review Adult E

## Key Themes

This handout is intended to reflect on the key themes identified from the Adult E Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR). A full copy of the SAR can be found [here](#).

Think about what these key themes mean for your practice. Ask yourself?

- Can I make changes to my own practice?
- Do I need to seek further support or training to implement this?

## Adult E

In 2017 West Sussex Safeguarding Adults Board undertook a Safeguarding Adults Review, after Adult E, a woman in her late 70s who lived alone, with no known relatives, was found dead in her home after she had not been seen for three weeks by her neighbours. Various agencies and individuals had on earlier occasions made attempts to provide her with support, which she refused.

## Key Theme 1: "Unwise Decisions"

### The review found:

Professionals are faced with challenging decisions when an adult has mental capacity and has chosen to make a single or a series of "unwise decisions".

### What we've learnt:

A professional needs to be proportionate in their approach taken towards an adult. If an adult at risk has mental capacity and is reluctant or refuses to accept support, they have the right to decline.

### Key considerations:

- How do you build/maintain a trusting relationship with people you work with when they are reluctant or refuse to accept support?
- What alternative strategies are open to you when an adult at risk refuses or is reluctant to accept support?

## Key Theme 2: Recording

### The review found:

Identifying and recording factors that may contribute to a person's vulnerability can be an important step to ensuring that the person receives the necessary support or that reasons for refusal are noted.

### What we've learnt:

A written record of discussions, assessments or actions can help manage risks. Where an adult at risk refuses support, this should be respected but an accurate and chronological record of the support offered and reasons for the adult's refusal should be recorded. These decisions should be kept under review and ongoing support offered where possible.

#### Key considerations:

- What are your experiences of record keeping and chronologies?
- Are records and chronologies kept consistently across your team?
- Is all necessary information accessible to you; what would be helpful to have?

## Key Theme 3: Feedback and acknowledgement

### The review found:

West Sussex County Council needed to develop proportionate feedback to originating agencies of the receipt and progress of referrals, with particular regard to safeguarding concerns.

### What we've learnt:

The person or organisation that raised the safeguarding concern should always be informed by the local authority that it has been received and where appropriate how the concern is being progressed.

#### Key considerations:

- How do you signpost to alternative pathways if a referral does not meet the safeguarding threshold?
- How can you work in partnership to support people who do not meet the safeguarding threshold?
- Do you acknowledge receipt of information from colleagues, both within and outside your organisation?