



# Safeguarding Adults Review in respect of Clare

## About Clare

Clare is 43 years-old and was born in Littlehampton with DiGeorge syndrome; a genetic condition that causes the underdevelopment of some systems in the body. Autism can also be associated with this syndrome, which was diagnosed in 2004. Her father, who contributed to the Review, described Clare as a quiet child with few friends, who was sadly bullied at school due to her disability. Clare also has a history of mental health concerns, including auditory hallucinations. Clare has lived in supported housing from around the age of 20, but at the time this Review was written, she was unwell and in hospital.

From February 2022, Clare began to express concerns about her mobility, due to long standing knee pain. Clare expressed that voices were telling her that her knee would break if she moved, which resulted in her remaining seated on her sofa for at least two weeks, leading to rapidly worsening hygiene circumstances. A Mental Health Act Assessment led to Clare's admission to hospital.

It was acknowledged that there were missed opportunities over many months for a robust multi-agency risk management meeting, to coordinate a comprehensive, personalised and holistic risk management plan to support Clare.

## Review findings: what we need to do better

- Practitioner-led risk management
- Training opportunities on risk, safeguarding adults, mental capacity, and autism
- Dual mental and physical health needs
- Mental Health Act assessments

The WSSAB will be taking forward an additional recommendation around information gathering and escalation regarding the ability to admit people to appropriate hospital beds when required.

## Areas of good practice

The Review acknowledges that there were areas of positive practice by involved agencies. Professionals across a range of agencies visited Clare often and promptly, demonstrating attentive and caring approaches, and skilled communication. There was also evidence of regular communication between agencies in raising and responding to concerns.

## Questions to ask yourself

The below key areas of recommendations will be taken forward in a multi-agency action plan. This plan will be monitored to seek assurance that actions have been completed to improve

practice and minimise risk. Please consider the following questions to make sure your practice reflects the learning from this case.

## Practitioner-led risk management

- Do you ensure you follow the Sussex Multi-Agency Procedures when supporting adults at risk of self-neglect?
- In high-risk self-neglect cases, do you take responsibility for initiating multi-agency review meetings if required?
- Are you aware of the need for professional curiosity, and are you confident that you consistently practice this?

## Training opportunities

- Do you receive training on safeguarding practice, including risk management, professional curiosity, safeguarding thresholds and mental capacity?
- Are you aware of the learning resources developed by the Safeguarding Adults Board in these areas? Do you use these?
- Does your agency offer training on learning disabilities and autism?
- Are you up to date with all your mandatory training?

## Dual mental and physical health needs

- When working with somebody with a dual mental and physical health diagnosis, do you consider each need/risk in isolation, as well as holistically?
- Do you consider/refer for investigations for potential physical health needs?

## Mental Health Act assessments

- Are you confident in recognising when a Mental Health Act assessment is required?
- Do you contact the Mental Health Act referrals line (0330 222 8866) if you require further advice on whether an assessment is required?



## Learning resources

To extend your learning, please do refer to the following learning resources:

- [Safeguarding Thresholds: Guidance for Professionals](#)
- [Sussex Multi-Agency Procedures](#) for supporting adults who self-neglect
- [Professional curiosity](#) learning briefing and podcast
- [Self-neglect](#) learning briefing and podcast
- [Risk assessment](#) learning briefing and podcast
- [Mental capacity](#) learning briefing and podcast

To support your Continual Professional Development (CPD) we have created a [CPD Reflective Log](#) for your use. Please feel free to use this to track, and reflect on, the professional development that you complete using our resources.