



Safeguarding Adults Review in respect of DJT

About DJT

DJT was a Polish man who worked as a painter and decorator for most of his life and enjoyed his job. He was the proud father of two sons and a daughter, and enjoyed cycling, football, swimming, music, and cars. Those who worked with DJT described him as a caring man with a good sense of humour.

DJT's eldest son died aged 21 years old and subsequently, his marriage ended. Following the death of his son, his alcohol use increased. A second traumatic incident happened whilst at work, when a sharp object penetrated DJT's eye which resulted in him requiring surgery; he then developed glaucoma and lost some of his sight. These life events caused DJT to become dependent on alcohol, which led to him making 'unwise' choices and self-neglecting in areas including his personal hygiene, nutrition, and financial responsibility. DJT's children had minimal contact with him, and as a result did not contribute to this Review. DJT sadly passed away in hospital in May 2021 of multiple organ failure, related to his alcohol use.

A SAR referral was made by West Sussex County Council (WSCC) following a Serious Incident Review (SIR), due to concerns that there were areas of multi-agency learning. Our Review looked at actions of the involved agencies and made recommendations to improve practice to reduce future risk.

Review findings: what we need to do better

- Person-centred care, including supporting adults with finances and medication
- Trauma informed approaches
- Multi-agency working and coordination
- Mental capacity, particularly for adults who are self-neglecting
- Safeguarding thresholds and referrals
- Consideration of fire safety measures/risk assessment

Areas of good practice

The Review acknowledged that Sussex Police went above and beyond their remit to support DJT. After finding him out in public, they escorted him to the shops to purchase food supplies and then took him home, where they spent an hour cleaning and tidying for him. Two representatives from WSCC also went above and beyond their remit to support DJT, accompanying him to several banks to help him sort out his finances and spending a considerable amount of time trying to resolve his benefit issues.

Rehabilitation Officers from the Visually Impaired team (ROVI) provided significant support to DJT to help him cope with his sight loss, resolving issues in relation to his finances, and emotional support.

Questions to ask yourself

The following 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.

Person-centred care including supporting adults with finances and medication

- When working with adults with complex care needs, do you ensure that there are provisions in place to support all of their care needs including medication and finances?
- Do you consider how these complex needs could be a barrier to engaging with services, and do you address these to help an adult engage more successfully?

Trauma informed approaches

- Do you use and promote the use of trauma-informed approaches when supporting adults who have experienced trauma?
- Where an adult expresses suicidal intention or has attempted suicide, do you arrange or be involved in arranging a co-produced, suicide safety plan?

Multi-agency working and coordination

- When working with other agencies to support an adult, is the work consistently joined up through a coordinated approach?
- Is there a nominated staff member who has the responsibility for oversight and coordination of the care being provided to the adult?
- Are all appropriate agencies involved with supporting the adult through a comprehensive care plan?

Mental Capacity particularly for adults who are self-neglecting

- Are you confident in your knowledge of the Mental Capacity Act and how this should be applied?
- Is mental capacity assessed with the consideration of other related factors, including self-neglect, substance use and experience of trauma?

Safeguarding thresholds and referrals

- Are you clear about the difference between neglect/abuse and a poor quality of service and, how concerns relating to these should be managed?
- Are you aware of and use the Safeguarding Thresholds document?

Consideration of fire safety measures/risk assessment

- Do you make referrals for fire risk assessments as soon as concerns for fire safety are identified?
- Do you consider fire protection and minimisation measures that could be used and how any barriers to using these could be overcome?



Learning resources

To extend your learning, please do refer to the following learning resources on the '[Policy and Protocols](#)' and '[Learning and Podcasts](#)' pages of our website.

- Sussex Multi-Agency Procedures for supporting adults who self-neglect
- Safeguarding Thresholds Document
- Person-centred approaches learning briefing and podcast
- Multi-agency working and communication learning briefing and podcast
- Mental Capacity Act learning briefing and podcast
- Self-neglect 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.