

JACK

Case Summary

Jack and Helen were a long-married couple in their eighties. They lived in Suffolk for twenty years before coming to South Cambs. Helen was unhappy and openly critical of Jack. She accused him of having dementia, restricting his access to money and isolating him from support. Despite their adult children's concerns, Helen's behaviour persisted, and Jack expressed his despair to them. In October 2021, Jack tragically took his own life. Helen, who was later diagnosed with Alzheimer's, did not attend Jack's funeral and was later admitted to a care home. Jack's recorded message to his family revealed his sense of hopelessness and resignation at being subjected to such abuse over many years.

Areas of focus

- Economic & emotional abuse were key features in this case
- Services and agencies need to better identify domestic abuse, specifically for carers, elderly, and male victims of domestic abuse
- Services and agencies to respond effectively to those contemplating taking their own life.
- Recording processes and the sharing of information must be sufficient between agencies when a situation arises where the risk assessment and concern are for a person associated/related to the person being cared for.

Link to DHR - <https://www.scambs.gov.uk/community-safety-and-health/community-safety/community-safety-partnership/dhr-jasmin/>

The purpose of Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) is to give an accurate as possible account of what originally transpired in an agency's response to Jack, to evaluate it fairly, and if necessary to identify any improvements for future practice.

Agency Involvement

- NHS Cambs and Peterborough ICB
- - Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Adult Social Care
- Cambridge and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust
- Multi Care Community Services Ltd

Recommendations -

National and local recommendations were made.

National recommendation

-Policy and protocol to reflect that an individual should not be left alone until further assistance has arrived when high risk/immediate safeguarding needs are identified

Local recommendations made included -

-Cambridgeshire County Council should establish a communication strategy to remind statutory agencies and professionals to:

Increase awareness of carers and DA and to refer to specialist services.

Encourage carers to identify themselves as such.

- Inform carers about the option to have a carer's needs assessment for their own wellbeing
This approach aims to increase referrals and needs assessments, especially in challenging caregiving situations, such as domestic abuse.

- Caring Together and Lifecraft to increase promotion of their services

-GP practice is to review the practice's safeguarding policy to ensure it includes older adults domestic abuse and professional curiosity