

Adult Y Safeguarding Adult Review Learning Brief

Case Summary

Cumbria Safeguarding Adults Board commissioned a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) regarding an adult known as adult Y, who died as a result of a perforated bowel.

Adult Y who suffered from Crohn's Disease and Alzheimers was admitted to a residential care home following a hospital admission in 2012. Adult Y did not settle well at the care home and was subject to a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) authorisation as a result of her lack of capacity to consent to her living and care arrangements. In the months that followed, Adult Y experienced a significant number of falls and concerns were raised regarding her loss of weight. As a result of the falls Adult Y attended hospital on a number of occasions and returned to the care home. As a result of concerns regarding her weight loss over the same period, the G.P was contacted and made changes to her prescribed medication for Crohn's Disease. In January 2013, Adult Y was admitted to hospital suffering from chronic abdominal pain. A scan was undertaken which identified that she had a perforated bowel, she was assessed as not suitable for surgery and she sadly passed away the next day.

The review highlighted key themes which are listed below;

- Any case that is considered to meet the criteria for a review should be referred at the earliest opportunity. If there is a possibility that the process will impinge on other investigations, a pragmatic decision must be reached on how to proceed.
- The required care needs of each individual should be reviewed after any significant incidents, including hospital admission. All agencies need to have robust systems in place to ensure that referrals are followed up.
- A framework should be in place to identify a lead professional to coordinate the care of people with complex needs in line with good practice guidance.
- The discharge planning process needs to be carefully coordinated and Adult Social Care have a pivotal role in supporting families to make difficult decisions about the future care needs of their relatives which should include ensuring that good quality targeted information is available particularly in relation to choosing a care home.
- All agencies should adopt an investigative approach to casework and not passively accept decisions that may affect the well-being of the people they work with.
- Referrals for Mental Capacity support should be considered for every case even when there are supportive family members acting in the persons' best interest.
- Care providers and hospital trusts should have robust procedures in place for documenting falls and weight loss to identify escalating patterns and ensure appropriate assessments are undertaken
- G.P's should ensure that new patients are visited and not rely on the information provided by care staff to ensure diagnosis and treatment is accurate.
- Hospital Trusts should ensure that medication is holistically reviewed on each admission to hospital.