

Lucy's Safeguarding Adults Review



The Safeguarding Adults Board is made up of organisations like Social Services, the Police and Health Services. They work together to help keep adults with care and support needs safe from abuse and neglect.



When somebody with care and support needs dies of abuse and neglect, the Safeguarding Adults Board may need to look at how well everyone worked together to keep the person safe.

This is called a Safeguarding Adults Review.



This is an easy read version of Lucy's review. Lucy is not her real name. It is important nobody knows who Lucy is.

Lucy's background



Lucy was 75 and lived with her husband.

He was her main carer.



Lucy had many health problems. She had a serious drink problem.



Lucy suffered from self-neglect. This meant she did not always look after her own health or her own home.



Self-neglect can lead to somebody being very poorly. Self-neglect can be very serious.



In the past Lucy was a victim of domestic abuse from her husband.



Caring for Lucy was difficult for her husband. This included Lucy refusing carer support and being very controlling, which made it hard for her husband to cope.



Lucy received a lot of support from different organisations.



Sometimes people made decisions for Lucy to keep her safe and well.

This happened when Lucy did not understand something and could not make the decision herself.

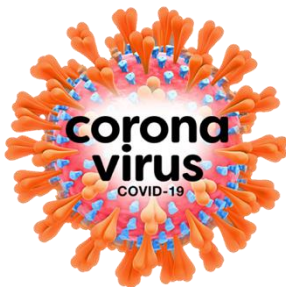
Safeguarding concerns



Lucy's health was getting worse, especially in the months before her death.



Sometimes when Lucy drank too much alcohol, she refused the care and support offered to her. This got worse in the last months of her life.



Lucy died in hospital with Covid-19.

Things that were good about the care and support Lucy received



Care staff and hospital staff did a lot of good work supporting Lucy with her alcohol problems.



The domestic abuse between Lucy and her husband was dealt with properly.



The ambulance service did a good job.

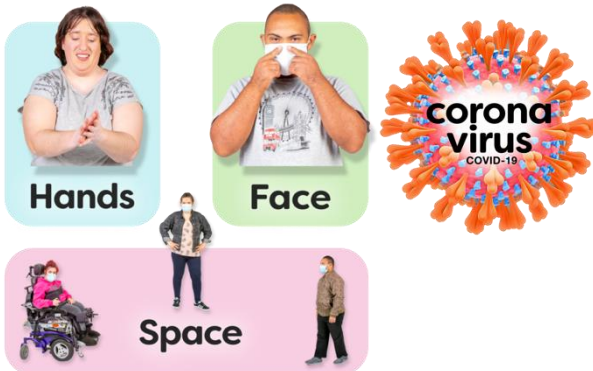
Things that were difficult when supporting Lucy



Staff found it hard to support Lucy to change her life for the better when she did not look after herself.

This was made worse when Lucy had been drinking.

This was because Lucy had the right to make choices that were bad for her.



Supporting Lucy under coronavirus safety rules was very difficult.

It also made communication between the staff much harder.

Ideas to make services better



Make sure all the different organisations are trained about how to help people with alcohol problems.



Make sure any existing guides and advice about alcohol abuse and self-neglect are good.



Do some more work about domestic abuse and older people and tell other organisations about this.



Make sure the lessons learnt when working under Covid-19 are shared.



Make sure people understand the rules about when they can and cannot make decisions for people.

