

## **Safeguarding and the Care Act case example – modern slavery**

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Mr Giles is in his 20s, and has autistic traits and anxiety. The Salvation Army found him sleeping rough.

Mr Giles disclosed that he had fled from two men who had offered him work. He said he had to work six days a week unpaid and shared an old, dirty shed with another man. He said he was picked up by a van at 7.00 am and then knocked on people's doors asking if they wanted any work doing, digging patios or making drive-ways. He was then picked up at 9.00 pm; if he was not back by this time he would get beaten. After an incident where he was beaten with a spanner he managed to escape.

The Salvation Army raised a safeguarding concern with Adult Social Care (ASC) as they felt Mr Giles may have been a victim of modern slavery and was currently homeless.

Based on the information gathered and the presenting risk an ASC manager confirmed that immediate action was required to keep Mr Giles safe and that he should be visited that day.

The Section 42 duty to undertake a safeguarding enquiry was triggered because Mr Giles was an adult with care and support needs in terms of his anxiety and autistic traits, he appeared to have experienced, and was at risk of further, physical and psychological abuse, and as a result of his care and support needs he may be unable to protect himself from further harm.

The ASC manager arranged for a worker to visit Mr Giles to check on his wellbeing and support him in accessing temporary bed and breakfast accommodation. During this visit, the worker also spoke to Mr Giles about the outcomes he desired from the enquiry. These were:

- "I am angry, upset and frightened about what I have been subjected to, and will give a statement to the police as long as I can be kept safe."
- "I want justice and for the men to be put in prison."
- "I want to find somewhere safe to live."

Mr Giles consented to the enquiry team making a referral through the National Referral Mechanism to notify the Home Office it was suspected that he was a victim of slavery, this being a duty set out in the Modern Slavery Act 2015,

A safeguarding plan was agreed between Mr Giles and the worker. This included his desired outcomes and the risks if he did not receive appropriate housing and support around what he had experienced.

As this was an alleged criminal offence, the details of the concern were shared with the police, who undertook a raid of the site and arrested the two men.

A safeguarding meeting took place to conclude the enquiry. This was chaired by the ASC manager and attended by Mr Giles, the police, a worker from the borough council housing department, the Salvation Army worker and ASC worker. An independent advocate also attended to support Mr Giles as he did not have the confidence to express his desired outcomes during the meeting.

The meeting considered how Mr Giles' desired outcomes could be met and protective measures could be achieved. This included:

- Mr Giles being informed by the police that although the two men were on bail, and would be going to Court in three months, they were not allowed within a two miles radius of him.
- Police and Adult Social Care warning markers were implemented.
- Direct access to a police officer if Mr Giles was worried.
- Counselling sessions to help Mr Giles talk through his experiences.
- ASC to undertake an assessment of Mr Giles' care and support needs.

When the safeguarding plan was reviewed six weeks later, it was confirmed the following outcomes had been achieved:

- The two men received a prison sentence of four years under the Modern Slavery Act 2015.
- The police and ASC warning markers remained.
- Mr Giles was assessed by ASC and placed in a supported living environment to assist with his accommodation needs and daily living skills.
- He also received occupational therapy support with his daily living skills.
- Mr Giles received psychological support around his experience, and spoke to Victim Support.

Mr Giles felt that, as a result of these actions, his desired outcomes had been achieved. An ASC worker would monitor and review Mr Giles' placement.