

Safeguarding and the Care Act case example – psychological abuse

Mr Park has a diagnosis of dementia. A community support worker noticed that his grandson had moved in with him. Over the next few weeks, she often found the grandson and his friends sitting in Mr Park's living room, drinking beer. She noticed that on these occasions Mr Park kept to his bedroom and looked anxious.

The community support worker contacted Adult Social Care and explained that although Mr P consented to her making contact he did not want to get his nephew into trouble.

Adult Social Care reviewed the information it had about Mr Park's situation, and confirmed that the threshold to trigger the duty to undertake a Section 42 enquiry had been met. This was because Mr Park has care and support needs in relation to his dementia, he may be experiencing psychological abuse, and as result of his care and support needs is unable to protect himself.

An enquiry officer is appointed and visits Mr Park, with the community support worker, at the drop-in centre he attends to assess his mental capacity to consent to an enquiry and establish the outcomes he desires.

Mr Park is assessed as not having the capacity to consent to an enquiry although he is able to indicate that he wants his grandson to live with him. As he lacks capacity a referral is made to appoint an Independent Mental Capacity Advocate to represent and support him during the enquiry.

A discussion is held to plan the enquiry and agree a safeguarding plan. It is agreed that the enquiry officer will:

- Contact Mr Park's family to find out their view of the situation and establish whether it is safe to speak to Mr P's grandson to find out whether he understands the impact his actions are having on his grandfather.
- Talk to a housing officer to find out if Mr Park's grandson was breaking a tenancy agreement.
- Arrange for a social care assessment of Mr Park's needs, and an OT assessment of his daily living skills to be undertaken.

A conclusion meeting is held two weeks later to consider the findings of the enquiry. The enquiry has found that Mr Park has had a close relationship with his grandson over the years and has enjoyed the time he has spent with him. However, as a quiet man, he finds it difficult to be in large groups of people in particular if they are being rowdy.

Although Mr Park's grandson knows that his friends can become quite noisy, particularly after a few drinks, he was unaware of the impact that this had been

having on his grandfather. He explained that he brings his friends home as he did not like leaving his grandfather on his own for too long as he was worried that he might leave the cooker on or might have a fall.

A safeguarding plan is drawn up which comprised:

- Mr Park's grandson to stop bringing groups of friends back to his grandfather's house.
- A carers assessment to be completed with Mr Park's grandson.

The safeguarding plan is reviewed after four weeks, and it is confirmed that Mr Park's grandson continues to live with him but he has stopped bringing groups of friends round.

Following a social care assessment, occupational therapy assessment and carers assessment, services and equipment are provided to support Mr Park at home. As a result of this Mr Park's grandson does not worry about leaving him on his own and therefore is able to go out and see his friends.

The community support worker observes that Mr Park no longer keeps to his bedroom or looks anxious.