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Background

Mrs YZ contacted the Police to report that she believed her home address had been broken into. Patrols attended and found Mr YZ with significant head injuries. Police officers found the home address to be secure but there was extensive damage to the front door of the property and a significant amount of blood in the master bedroom. Mr YZ has early-stage dementia but was able to confirm that their son was responsible.

Mr and Mrs YZ confirmed that they had been having issues with their son, for some time. This was concerning the equity he believed he was entitled to from their house. They transferred a considerable six-figure sum to him, but their son believed he is entitled to more and had started to harass his parents for more money. Both parents are unwilling to give him any more money and this is the reason for the tension in the family. Their son had threatened to take their grandchildren overseas, so they will never see them again unless they pay him more money.

Mr and Mrs YZ stated that they felt pressured and coerced into giving their son large sums of money.
CPS have authorised charges of attempt murder (of father, Mr YZ) and assault by beating (of mother, Mrs YZ).

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The Purpose of a Discretionary Safeguarding Adults Review:

- Establish the facts that led to the assault and whether there are any lessons to be learned from the case about how local professionals and agencies worked together to safeguard Mr and Mrs YZ
- Highlight areas of good practice to be shared
- Identify how and within what timescales any actions will be acted on, and what is expected to change.
- Contribute to a better understanding of the nature of Adult Safeguarding
- Ensure that the experiences of Mr and Mrs YZ are heard regarding their lived experiences and the impact of financial abuse, psychological and physical abuse

Key Themes:

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- Mental Capacity - All agencies need to demonstrate legal compliance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Professional Curiosity – professionals need to question and challenge the information they receive, in order to identify concerns and make connections to enable a greater understanding of a person's situation.
- Financial abuse and affluence - In 2021, the Domestic Abuse Act was updated to legally recognise economic abuse as a form of domestic abuse. It is key partners utilise the Cheshire East Domestic Abuse.
- Section 11 of the Care Act. – i.e. Where a person is subject to a safeguarding enquiry and is refusing an assessment – it is important to note that the assessment can still be completed without consent

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Resources and further information:

[The importance of professional curiosity in safeguarding adults | Research in Practice](#)

[Financial Abuse Support Toolkit • NCDV](#)

[Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Hub \(CEDAH\) | CheshireEastMarketPlace](#)

[Mental Capacity \(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](#)

[Combined document to Support Adult Safeguarding Referrals \(003\) \(002\) \(stopadultabuse.org.uk\)](#)

[Surviving Economic Abuse: Transforming responses to economic abuse](#)

[Myths and realities about Making Safeguarding Personal](#)

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Implementing change:

Discuss the themes with your team or service and consider how they may affect your practice. Determine what you or your team could do to act on these and implement any necessary changes.

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Practice implications: This is a very sad case of financial, emotional and physical abuse by a son, towards his aging parents. The perpetrator was able to obtain significant amounts of money (hundreds of thousands of pounds) from his parents prior to the physical assault, and there were some missed opportunities, particularly when the victims and extended family members sought support from various agencies previously. Organisations need to share information with the right people in a timely manner to prevent serious harm and to enable early interventions to prevent the escalation of risk. Partners are reminded that they can consult the Domestic Abuse Hub for advice even if there are issues around consent.

**Recommendations:**

- Cheshire Police to provide assurance to the SAB that adult safeguarding training is scheduled and completed by all control room staff
- The SAR identified good practice that the GP Multi-Disciplinary Team meetings discussed adult safeguarding as well as physical health issues. Recommendations from the SAB that this is adopted in other GP Practices if not already in place
- All agencies need to demonstrate legal compliance with the Mental Capacity Act 2005 principles by completing and recording MCA assessments in a decision specific and timely way.
- All Board partners need to demonstrate compliance with the Care Act by offering Carers Assessments and subsequent support.
- Adult Social Care will review and update guidance with how to respond to referrers who wish to remain anonymous
- Staff to be reminded that they can facilitate a paid advocate to be involved in Safeguarding Enquiries or a Care Act assessment if they haven't got anyone else to support
- Adult Social Care need to record a category of Domestic Abuse on Liquid Logic at the earliest opportunity when there is evidence of coercive behaviour involved.
- To ensure that Multi Agency Strategy Meetings are arranged ASAP to share information and to record actions, roles and responsibilities