

### 1 Background

Adult C, was a 30 year old female and known to many services; she was a long-standing alcoholic and a victim of domestic abuse by her partner, father-in-law and others. She was also considered a perpetrator of domestic abuse within her close relationships. Adult C suffered post-natal depression following the birth of her first child. Social care involvement led to the child being taken into care. Adult C died following diagnosis and treatment for pneumonia.

The Learning Lessons Review considered 4 themes and identified 15 learning points.

### 2 Theme 1: Understanding and Managing Domestic Abuse

MARAC was misunderstood by some practitioners; particularly the management of risk and long-term co-ordination of support.

There was a strong co-dependency between Adult C and her most recent partner who was alcohol dependent and had mental health issues. Understanding these complex relationships requires different approaches from practitioners.

Adult C was more afraid of living alone than living within an abusive relationship.

Agencies did not focus on understanding, pursuing and deterring the perpetrator to reduce domestic abuse.

### 3 Theme 2: Understanding and Managing Alcohol Dependency

Adult C's contact with support agencies was sporadic. Her GP made appropriate referrals in relation to alcohol dependency, however, key information held by agencies (including domestic abuse) was not shared with the GP.

Adult C was deemed to have capacity to make decisions but was often intoxicated when assessments took place: alcohol dependency leads to changes in the brain associated with impaired executive functioning. This may impact on the ability to effectively engage with services and if combined with domestic abuse, mental capacity is possibly severely impacted.

### 4 Theme 3: Management and Co-ordination of community acquired pneumonia in alcohol dependent adults

Adults who are alcohol dependent are at increased risk of developing and dying from community acquired pneumonia.

Adult C was known to attend hospital appointments and was provided with relevant treatment. However, when her condition worsened, she refused to go to hospital and was deemed to have capacity to make that decision. It is not known if she really understood the seriousness of her condition and if her chaotic lifestyle contributed to this decision.

## 5 Theme 4: Multi-Agency Working and Communication

There was a lack of co-ordination to the support provided; domestic abuse, alcohol dependency and chronic health problems were all being managed in parallel lines. There was some good work in terms of organising appointments, but this was not sustained.

There was a lack of health information shared between GPs and MARAC, and services had criteria which Adult C could not easily meet.

The Team Around the Individual (TATI) panel is now established across Tees. This new way of working provides a co-ordinated, multi-agency approach to support individuals with complex and chaotic lifestyles and aims to reduce the risk of serious abuse and neglect.

## 6 What to do now

- Reflect on how the above themes link with your direct practice with adults, families and practitioners.
- Think about what changes you can make to your practice in similar cases.
- Share within your team and explore any training needs you may have.

## 7 What to do now and next

- Read the full report: <https://www.tsab.org.uk/professionals/safeguarding-adult-review-sar-reports/>
- Visit <https://www.tsab.org.uk/key-information/policies-strategies/> for up to date policies, procedures and guidance including:
  - Inter-Agency Safeguarding Adults Procedure and Decision Support Guidance
  - Making Safeguarding Personal Guidance
  - Team Around the Individual Guidance and Referral Form
  - Vulnerable Dependent Drinkers Learning Briefing
- Check out these resources:
  - [MARAC: Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference](#)
  - [MATAC: Multi-Agency Tasking and Co-ordination Guidance](#)
  - [An analysis of alcohol-related Safeguarding Adults Reviews published in 2017](#)
  - Free [e-learning courses](#)
  - Free [training workbooks](#)
- Implement any identified changes required into practice

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