

RCT Case Study: Adult at Risk

People involved (not actual names):

- John (diagnosis of dementia and cancer)
- Phillip (son and alleged perpetrator)
- Kathleen (wife not an adult at risk but vulnerable)
- Helen (daughter not an adult at risk)

Referral to the Adult Safeguarding Team from the police, following John and Kathleen being physically and financially abused by their son Phillip. Phillip was arrested however, Kathleen and Helen were reluctant to provide a statement to the police due to fear of further abuse from Phillip. There was a concern that abuse had been long standing.

The family were not previously known to social services, and it was unclear how John's dementia and cancer diagnosis impacted on him, on a day-to-day basis. It was unclear what ability he was able to keep himself safe from abuse, and what his wishes and feelings were regarding the son's arrest.

There was also a concern that the family may be minimising harm and were reluctant to seek support to prevent Phillip from being arrested. Due to the concerns regarding domestic abuse, the family were discussed within a Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). The family were not previously known to services. Independent domestic abuse advocate was offered but declined.

Initial section 126 enquiries identified the determination that John was an adult at risk, and a strategy meeting was held. As part of this process, John was offered an assessment of needs for care and support, and a carer's assessment was offered to Kathleen. Within the strategy meeting it was evidence that John, Kathleen and Helen wanted support for Phillip and this was why they were reluctant to pursue any police complaint due to his mental health needs/substance misuse needs. The professionals working with the family ensured that Phillip received appropriate support in his own right, and therefore the family felt able to pursue a police complaint to ensure their safety long term. Family understood the reasons for the bail conditions, and through consultation with police and agencies ensured they were adhered to, to prevent possible abuse from occurring. John, Kathleen and Helen continued to support the police complaint. A care and support protection plan was put in place to minimise further abuse, and there was active monitoring by adult social care.