



Keeping Adults Safe – Case Study

Background

Mr Brooks is an 82 year old gentleman who lives alone with 3 dogs, one of which is incontinent. He has vascular dementia, still fairly mild. He is known to the GP in terms of long term self-neglect, poor standards of hygiene and a degree of hoarding.

His main carer is his son who presents as unkempt, underweight and possibly has some mild learning difficulties. His son does not live with him but he does drive and is therefore able to shop for his Dad. He agrees to do various things for his Dad such as pick up tablets, but he will then forget for long periods.

Mr Brooks doesn't want to give up the dogs or leave his home.

Incident(s) – leading to referral

Concerns escalated for Mr Brooks due to his long term self-neglect coupled with vascular dementia resulting in risk due to hygiene concerns as a result of the condition of the house.

Action Taken

Referral to safeguarding made in respect of self-neglect, poor standards of hygiene, hoarding and non-compliance with medication.

Social services organised a deep clean but Mr Brooks refused to allow the soiled stuff to be taken away. It emerged that this was because she had thrown out the soiled items in the same bag as old family photos and post cards. She was a young non-English speaking woman and Mr Brooks felt she was rude.

Care companies have been contacted but no-one has capacity to supply on going care. There has been a joint visit between the GP and the social worker.

Outcome

Mr Brooks is working with memory nurse, GP and social worker. It isn't a pleasant environment but Mr Brooks and his son are pleasant with professionals and co-operative to talk and be examined. There is further potential to work on home situation.



Learning Points

- The response of any professionals working with an adult at risk should remain person centred at all times.
- When working with adults who hoard it is important to remember that the person may well have a strong emotional attachment to their items. Working with hoarders requires a person centred approach to ensure it is empathetic and supportive.
- Reference to the self-neglect procedure
- Consideration could be given to a referral to We Care and Repair to work with Mr Brooks.
- RSPCA referral to check on care of dogs?
- Assess where the home conditions appear on the AFRS Hoarding Scale

Further Reading

<http://hoardingdisordersuk.org/>

<http://www.wecr.org.uk/making-space>

<https://vimeo.com/603058>