

Please note that this document has been anonymised by the use of pseudonyms to protect the identity of those concerned

Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Learning Briefing in respect of Carol

1. Carol

Carol was a white British woman in her mid-fifties when she died by suicide. Over the years, Carol had reported controlling behaviour from her husband. Carol's mental health declined due to ongoing chronic pain which she had been living with for around seven years when she died. Carol had undergone a hip replacement operation, which had led to several follow up procedures, rendering Carol in pervasive and chronic pain and requiring strong painkillers for many years.

2. Reflective Practice

Please see below a series of themes, which were identified, through the review, alongside reflective questions to support ongoing learning, and useful resources to support positive developments in practice for all agencies.

Theme – Informal Care

Due to Carol's reduced mobility, chronic pain, and poor mental health, her children were providing care for her, although this was not recognised by professionals. This may have been due to the family's apparent affluence, and since the completion of the review, Lincolnshire County Council has included learning linked to this within their Young Carers e-learning package. Carol's husband was also providing some level of care at times, which was also not fully acknowledged by professionals. Agencies should be encouraged to improve their responses to children who care for their parents' physical and mental wellbeing. Agencies should also be encouraged to offer referrals for carer assessments to adults who care for family members.

Area of Learning	Reflective Questions	Useful Resources
Resources available to for Young Carers in Lincolnshire	- Do you know what the criteria are for a young carer in Lincolnshire? - Do you know what resources are available for young carers in Lincolnshire? - Do you know how to refer a young person for support via the Young Carers Service? - If you are unsure of any of the above questions – do you know how to find out this information?	Young Carers Lincolnshire Carers Services Lincolnshire SCP Policy and Procedures Manual Pupil reintegration team – The pupil reintegration team - Lincolnshire County Council
Referral pathways for carer assessments, which can be offered	- Do you know what the criteria are of a carer in Lincolnshire? - Do you know what a carer's assessment is –	Carers assessment Connect to Support Lincolnshire

to any adults who are identified as providing care within their family.	and how to make a referral for a carer's assessment? If you are unsure of any of the above questions – do you know how to find out this information?	
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Theme – Identifying Risks of Harm

Agencies were involved with Carol and her family at different times over several years, however incidents were generally focused on individually; with patterns of behaviour which had been present for many years being missed. Not all agencies involved with Carol asked about domestic abuse. The review also highlighted links between domestic abuse and suicide and raised questions about responses to dual allegations.

Area of Learning	Reflective Questions	Useful Resources
Routine and safe enquiry	- Do you know the difference between routine and safe enquiry? - Do you feel confident to ask about domestic abuse when supporting an individual? If not, do you know where to access training which will equip you with the confidence to ask about domestic abuse?	Domestic abuse – Lincolnshire County Council LDASS Victim Lincs
The link between domestic abuse and suicide	- Are you aware of the link between domestic abuse and suicide? - Do you feel confident to ask questions about suicidal ideation or self harm – in the context of domestic abuse or generally? - If you are not confident – do you know where to access training, advice and resources to support your work with individuals who may be experiencing suicidal ideation?	Lincolnshire County Council has recently developed a Suicide Toolkit. The current version of the toolkit is embedded here – this is subject to change regarding localised data  Suicidality%20Toolkit %20V1.1%20-%20sub Domestic abuse and suicide: Exploring the links - NSPA The impact of domestic abuse on suicide - The Lancet Regional Health – Europe Domestic Abuse links to suicide: Rapid Review, Fieldwork and Quantitative analysis Report - Version 3 - University of Birmingham Suicide SAFE - useful resources:: Lincolnshire Partnership NHS Trust
Children as direct victims of domestic	Are you aware of the phrase “children as direct victims of domestic abuse” as	Children & Young Person Support Training and Resources

abuse	introduced in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021? - Do you know what this means for your practice – and also for an expected multiagency response? - If you do not feel confident about recognising and supporting children who are victims of domestic abuse – do you know how to access training locally? - Do you know where to refer children who are victims of domestic abuse, for support?	LSCP Training - Registration - Enable Joint professional escalation and resolution protocol – Overview - Lincolnshire County Council
Dual allegations	- Do you feel confident responding in situations where there are dual allegations of abuse? - Do you know where to access support and advice about responding to dual allegations?	Respect Toolkit for work with male victims of domestic abuse Respect Responding to Counter allegations Guidance.pdf DARE - Hampton Trust, Breaking the cycle of abuse

Theme – Intersectional Approaches

Carol was living with a range of issues. She had poor physical and mental health. She was experiencing chronic pain for many years, had experienced trauma through failed operations, which increased her pain, and was using strong pain killers to cope with this pain – often also drinking alcohol alongside the painkillers. Carol had also been subjected to controlling behaviour from her husband for many years and as a result, she felt she had little to no control over her financial situation. In addition to these issues, for the last few years of her life, she was also living with the symptoms of menopause.

Recommendation	Reflective Questions	Useful Resources
The review highlighted that often Carol's life challenges were dealt with in silo, and there was no evidence of agencies considering how all of these elements intersected to create higher risks of harm for Carol.	- What do you know about intersectionality? - How does your individual practice approach intersectionality? - Does your organisation offer training on intersectionality, and if not, do you know how to access this training? - Think about an individual who you are currently supporting/working with, who is living with a range of issues – how can you adapt your practice to ensure they are supported by an	Understanding intersectionality Research in Practice https://vimeo.com/211474558?fl=pl&fe=sh

	intersectional approach?	
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