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Background: This DSAR focussed on the assault and neglect of a 90yr old female (Adult D/ AD) allegedly by her 50 yr old son. Her son was main carer to Adult D. AD has full capacity but is physically frail with mobility issues due to her age. AD referred to ASC due to poor conditions at home, bed soaked in urine, poor supply of food, AD care needs not being met. AD also had extensive bruising on her face, neck and arms which resulted in an admission to hospital. Both son and AD state this is accidental bruising following a fall. However, indicators suggest that these injuries are likely due to abuse/neglect. AD now receiving care in a care home setting.

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The Purpose of a Discretionary Safeguarding Adults Review:

- Establish the facts that led to the incident and whether there are any lessons to be learned from the case about how local professionals and agencies worked together to safeguard AD
- 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 AD and her family are heard regarding their lived experiences and the impact of adult abuse/ and neglect

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Key Themes:

Professional Curiosity -

AD refused to engage with partners and repeatedly stated that injuries were accidental. Professional Curiosity is important, as it enables a practitioner to have a holistic view and understanding of what is happening within a family and what life is like for an individual and use this information to fully assess potential risks. Please refer to Section 7 for more info.

Domestic Abuse –

Risk of Domestic Abuse increases when the carer is isolated and not getting any practical or emotional support from their family, friends, professionals or paid care staff.

Carers - The Care Act gives Carers the right to receive support from their Local Authority if they have eligible needs and any Agency can make a referral for a Carers Assessment.

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Resources and further information:

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

Cheshire East Carers Hub:

enquiries@cheshireeastcarershub.co.uk

Or Text 07866821609

Age UK: enquireis@ageuk.org.uk

Cheshire East All Age Carers Strategy:

[Layout 1 \(cheshireeast.gov.uk\)](#)

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

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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:

When domestic abuse is indicated it is vital that professionals utilise the Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Hub. It is key to note that partners can access the hub for advice even in cases when consent has not been given.

When anyone is identified as a Carer, it is essential to provide information and signpost to appropriate support. Equally it is important to listen to recognise the impact of the caring role and to promote wellbeing.

Information sharing and accurate record keeping is essential.

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Recommendations:

Front line practitioners will develop skills, knowledge and confidence to deliver trauma informed practice within their roles.

Frontline practitioners recognise and respond when there are concerns that alleged perpetrators are adults at risk with care and support needs.

All agencies consider timely information sharing with other agencies regarding safeguarding risks.

Establish mechanisms for improved recording of case documentation. Frontline practitioners are required to sign post people who have caring responsibilities for a carers assessment as part of their assessment process.

All partners should be aware of domestic abuse processes for the older person within CE.

Where adults at risk are identified at risk from domestic abuse. Safeguarding and DA professionals need to work to formulate a risk management plan.

Board to seek assurance that partners are aware of the carer's hub, its functions and referral process.

