

Statement of the Independent Chair of Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board on the publication of a Safeguarding Adults Review of Jack

1. Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adults Board is today publishing a report into the care and safeguarding interventions provided to an adult person who died in his own home by taking his own life.
2. Jack was described as suffering from anxiety and depression and is also noted as having a history of ADHD. He had been known to services, particularly Mental Health Services, for many years but his engagement was inconsistent and largely driven by crises. Additionally, Jack had co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders.
3. This case has highlighted the challenges of engaging with a person who might have care and support needs within the terms of the Care Act 2014, but one where considerable efforts had been made to engage, but where these were resisted.
4. Publication of this report follows a decision by Barking and Dagenham Safeguarding Adult Board on 12th October 2021.
5. The Overview Report of a Safeguarding Adults Review within the terms of the Care Act 2014, Section 44 is being published in full here. The report was compiled independently by a highly experienced Safeguarding Adults Review author, Mike Ward.
6. Mike Ward sought understanding of the case and pursued the review in a participative and engaging way with professionals who had been involved with Jack. The review process was overseen by the Safeguarding Adults Board's Safeguarding Adults Review Committee.
7. The report author concludes that there was no doubt that this case was upsetting for the professionals and also for the family of Jack. Professionals and services tried to offer support to Jack.
8. When considering the case review report the Safeguarding Adults Board dwelt on the challenges of this case, and more widely, for professionals and organisations when a person is reluctant to engage and there may be complex and co-occurring disorders.
9. The report author made a number of recommendations for consideration across the partnership which the Safeguarding Adults Board will be addressing.

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