

### Who was George?

George was a 78 year old male who lived in his Council house. George had a number of conditions including heart problems and a diagnosis of mixed dementia, although he chose not to engage with cardiac support services. George had a relationship with his adult son's. It is unclear if any of his son lived with him permanently but they were often at his house when professionals visited. Three safeguarding referrals were made relating to alleged neglect and physical abuse. George's sons often spoke to professionals on his behalf and advocated for him.

### What is Intrafamilial Abuse?

Intrafamilial abuse is the maltreatment of a person by another person in a family unit. We sometimes see this type of abuse between adult children and their parents, with the parent being the victim. This can take the forms of physical, emotions or sexual abuse.

Safeguarding Adult Review  
'George'  
Learning Briefing

### Areas of Concern

- When Social Workers visited George's home his sons were threatening and aggressive towards them.
- The GP undertook a joint home visit and noted lack of food in the kitchen.
- In hospital George discharged himself against medical advice. He was deemed to have capacity and able to make this decision however it was suspected that his son's may have put pressure on him.
- George's sons became aggressive towards staff in hospital, the Police were called.
- A Merlin and a safeguarding concern was raised.
- His son's cancelled the care package put in place for George.
- George's sons told the GP he would not be having the flu vaccine.
- George had no access to a phone either landline or mobile and could only be contacted through his son's mobile phone. This impacted on him when he was feeling unwell and was unable to call for help.

### Local Sign Posting & Support

Refuge: One to one confidential support and advocacy for people experiencing domestic abuse. [www.refuge.org.uk](http://www.refuge.org.uk) Call: 0300 456 0174, Email: [BDAdvocacy@refuge.org.uk](mailto:BDAdvocacy@refuge.org.uk)

DV Flag East: Free independent confidential advice on legal options to anyone experiencing domestic abuse in Barking and Dagenham and surrounding areas [www.dvflageast.org.uk](http://www.dvflageast.org.uk) Call: 020 8507 5994, Email: [dvflageast@bdcab.org.uk](mailto:dvflageast@bdcab.org.uk)  
Safeguarding Adults

Hour Glass: Support to older people experiencing abuse  
<https://www.wearehourglass.org/>

Specialist Domestic Abuse Advocate for vulnerable people

Safeguarding Adults Complex Cases Group Referrals: <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/adult-health-and-social-care/barking-and-dagenham-safeguarding-adults-board/safeguarding-adults-1>

Carer's assessments and support: <https://www.lbbd.gov.uk/adult-health-and-social-care/carers>

Carer's Hub: <https://www.carerscentre.org.uk/>

### How to Offer Support

- Offering safe places for visits and meetings such as the GP surgery or other community locations.
- Exploring mental capacity and executive capacity.
- Understanding cultural and family dynamics.
- Referral to the Police for domestic abuse or coercive control.
- The MARAC is a multi-agency meeting to discuss the highest risk cases, [MARACReferrals@lbbd.gov.uk](mailto:MARACReferrals@lbbd.gov.uk)

### What support was offered to George

- A referral was made to Refuge regarding potential abuse and an Independent Advocate was allocated to him.
- Professionals visited and engaged with George, despite the threatening behaviour of his sons.
- The Social Worker referred the case to the Police in view of coercive control.
- A referral was made to the Safeguarding Adults Complex Cases Group for multi agency discussion and risk management.