

What is the PIPOT (Persons in a Position of Trust) Process?

The PIPOT process helps to consider and then manage concerns about people, who could pose a risk to adults, where such information has originated from activity outside their professional or volunteer role and place of work. The alleged victim does not have to be an adult at risk, for example, it could be their partner or a child. If information is shared or disclosed it is done so in accordance with the law, but in such a way that allows appropriate and proportionate enquiries to be made that ensures adults with care and support needs are protected and public confidence in services is maintained. You can access the full PIPOT guidance and supporting documents here [Safeguarding Adults Board Multi Agency Documents and Guidance | London Borough of Barking and Dagenham \(lbbd.gov.uk\)](#)

What happened to 'Arthur'?

Arthur passed away at home in June 2023. He had dementia and was housebound. He died of Alzheimer's disease. He was being supported by Stacey and she says she was his friend. She was supporting him with shopping and chores at home. Stacey was not providing any formal care in accordance with Arthur's care and support plan. It is thought that Arthur and Stacey met as friends, but it is unclear how the connection was made. Following Arthur's death an economic crime investigation was started by the police around discrepancies in his bank account. The bank is supporting the investigation with information. His family did not notice this until after Arthur had passed away and they are unhappy about the situation.

Areas of Concern

Stacey cooperated with the police investigation and she admits to receiving money from Arthur on a number of occasions over 3 years and states that these were gifts. Some of this was to go towards buying a car and her living costs. The cheques were written by Stacey but signed by Arthur. There were also cash withdrawals. The total amount equated to around £36,000.

There is a letter signed by Arthur regarding these financial gifts, but this had not been countersigned by any other witness.

Arthur had no Power of Attorney in place and no Mental Capacity Assessment was undertaken with regard to his ability to manage his finances, as everyone assumed he had the mental capacity to make decisions about his money.

Learning

We need to ensure that when we share information about a person via the PIPOT process, that we are doing it to safeguard adults, but that we are also being fair to the person in question. Sharing of information should be appropriate and proportionate. It was agreed that there is not enough evidence to trigger the full PIPOT process and no other agencies or organisation would be informed of the adult concerned but could learn from the themes in this case.

There is an opportunity for the Safeguarding Adults Board to work with Commissioners and voluntary and community organisations to educate around situations like this, in order to safeguard adults in our community.

PIPOT Learning 7 Minute Briefing

Key Findings

The police investigation was stopped due to insufficient evidence and as a consequence the PIPOT was not progressed. This case is controversial and leaves us with unease about an adult and their abilities to manage their money. It confirms how adults could be better supported and possibly prevent, financial losses.