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Learning Lessons Review

The Care Act 2014 states that Safeguarding Adult Boards are able to carry out discretionary reviews and non-statutory reviews where they feel learning is available from cases.

This review was completed by a Detective Inspector from Greater Manchester Police.



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Background

Rochdale Borough Safeguarding Adult Board received a referral in August 2019, and following screening RBASB agreed to hold a Learning Lessons Review into the circumstances leading up to Adult 3's death.

Adult 3 struggled with her mental health and following the death of her husband and then her mother, Adult 3 made repeated attempts to end her life.

Adult 3 Learning Lessons Review



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What does this mean for me?

- ✓ Do you know which agencies and professionals are able to help in different situations?
- ✓ Are you aware of the mental health access single point of entry?
- ✓ Are case records complete with all relevant information including a person's significant history?
- ✓ Are known triggers or events that may heighten risk identified and addressed in any risk management plan / risk assessment?

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Suicide attempts

Adult 3 made 9 deliberate attempts to end her life including a suspected deliberate road accident (involving only herself), overdose and ligature round her neck. Adult 3 was found hanged in her property over the Easter weekend in 2019.

Adult 3 had received historic support from mental health services, and had spoken with her GP around previous suicide attempts.

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Learning

The review found some delays in information sharing between agencies, with information on a hospital admission shared 10 days after Adult 3's discharge.

All relevant information should be available to support decision-making when reviewing and triaging referrals for vulnerable adults.

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Learning

Adult 3 made 4 attempts to end her life over a 2 week period in 2019, taking her own life over the Easter weekend when services were not fully open.

Support was provided by out-of-hours services and a duty social worker when Adult 3 appeared to be in crisis and her friend requested an urgent response.

It is not clear that all professionals working with Adult 3 understood the role and remit of other agencies.

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Learning

Adult 3 struggled to come to terms with the deaths of her husband and mother, and was socially isolated. She sought support from GP and was diagnosed with depression. It is important to explore bereavement counselling with adults in these circumstances. Guidance and training on managing risk around trigger dates, and the impact on mental health is also important, to support professionals to provide support during times of heightened risk, including putting in place additional safeguards if necessary.