

BACKGROUND

Valerie was 78 when she was killed by her son Mark.

Mark had lived with his mother for around the past 20 years, having suffered from significant mental ill health. Valerie had impaired mobility due to hip replacement surgery. Both would have been considered as vulnerable adults. Mark and Valerie were co-dependent on one another.

Mark was sentenced to a term of life imprisonment. Whilst serving his sentence Mark died, believed to have taken his own life.

AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

The agencies involved include:-

- Uttlesford Community Safety Partnership
- Essex Safeguarding Adult Board
- NHS England
- Next Chapter, Domestic Abuse Support service.
- Essex Adult Social Care
- Essex Police
- Open Road, Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service
- Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust - EPUT
- West Essex CCG

LINK TO REPORT

This DHR was published on:
6th September 2022
and is available on the
website.

[Click here.](#)



REVIEW

A Joint **Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) & Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR)** was commissioned in March 2020, to identify how agencies worked together and to learn from any lessons to improve multiagency responses to domestic abuse. Due to the covid pandemic, the process was paused, and the group met in August 2020.

RECOMMENDATIONS

There were 12 recommendations made in this DHR /SAR.
Key recommendations include:

- Improved understanding of carer assessments.
- Improved working relationships between Mental health and Adult Social Care.
- Raised awareness of safeguarding referrals and the frameworks they fall under; coercive & controlling behaviour that can form part of complex relationships and the many ways this may manifest.
- ESAB to use the learning from this review to inform their work with a focus on innovative means of effectively capturing the adult's voices, hoarding guidance.
- The importance of professional curiosity which supports effective multi-agency working and that this will be monitored.
- Mental health commissioners to review their policies and procedures in relation to DA and evidence that it is embedded in training and in practice.
- Local Community Safety partnership to ensure that local DA services and resources are promoted locally.

KEY THEMES

- Understanding of **carer assessments, hoarding, coercive controlling behaviour, safeguarding referrals and professional curiosity.**
- Review of existing **policies and procedures** in relation to DA, ensuring this is embedded in training & practice.
- **Understanding the needs of individuals and tailoring the service offer.**
- **Capturing both adult's voices** in co-dependent relationships.
- **Knowledge** linked to domestic abuse and mental health and how they work in partnership.
- **Substance misuse** (prescription used by third-party).