

BACKGROUND

- Kimmi and Alfred had been married for 42 years and lived on a working farm in a rural part of Essex.
- Kimmi who was 73 years old had been diagnosed with vascular dementia 5 years ago and Alfred had taken on a caring role.
- Alfred had suffered a long history of serious physical illness and had been prescribed anti-depressants since 2008.
- Alfred was a licenced firearm and shotgun holder.
- The day after a safeguarding concern was raised Alfred shot Kimmi and himself dead.

AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

- The agencies involved include Adult Social Care, GP Surgery, Mental Health Services (EPUT), Provide (Community Health Provider), Domiciliary Care Provider, Broomfield Hospital (MSE), Essex Police and Alzheimer's Society.
- This happened in the context of the Covid pandemic and Kimmi's family found the provision of care for her confusing and uncoordinated.

REVIEW

A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) & Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR) was commissioned in order to identify how agencies worked together and to learn from any lessons to improve multi-agency responses to domestic abuse.

LINK TO REPORT

This DHR/SAR was published on:
19 September 2023
and is available at
setdab.org
and essexsab.org.uk



RECOMMENDATIONS

There were 21 recommendations made in this DHR & SAR. Key areas include:

- Review of the dementia diagnosis pathway and to have a whole family approach.
- Enquiry of the Enduring or Lasting Power of Attorney and evidence seen.
- ESAB to build on making Safeguarding Personal Project for adult's voices to be effectively heard.
- Carers should be involved in the hospital discharge process; their needs considered and offered a carers assessment post discharge.
- Multi-agency awareness of the importance of carers assessments.
- Raising and investigating of safeguarding concerns appropriately.
- Build into thematic reviews recent cases of suicide and homicide, which involve a caring relationship.
- Build awareness of information and services for DA & Older People.
- Risks around licenced firearms and sharing of information.

KEY THEMES

- **Support for carers-** coming to terms with a close relative with dementia.
- **Dementia diagnosis pathway** and support, a whole family approach.
- **Generational attitudes and barriers** to persons being able to accept support.
- **Carers Stress-** understanding of and provision of support to prevent it potentially manifesting in other forms of abuse.
- **Safeguarding Concerns-** appropriately raising and investigating.
- **Risks around the lawful possession of firearms.**