

## BACKGROUND

- At the time of her death Carol was 88 years of age. Carol was diagnosed with dementia in November 2019.
- After family concerns Carol was assessed by SAC and provided with a package of care to support her.
- One member of the family moved in with Carol to support her and her package was reduced at their request.
- Carol requested that the package of care was terminated and after assessment this happened in September 2022.
- In January 2023, Carol was found unconscious at her home address and subsequently died. She had been in a collapsed state for some time.

## AGENCY INVOLVEMENT

This case involved the following agencies

- Essex Adult Social Care
- Domiciliary Care Provider
- General Practitioner
- Southend Care Services
- East of England Ambulance Service
- Essex Partnership University Trust

## LINK TO REPORT

This DHR-SAR was published on:  
06 August 2025 and is available on  
the [ESAB website](#)

## REVIEW

A Domestic Homicide Review (DHR) and Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) was commissioned to identify how agencies worked together and to learn from any lessons to improve multiagency responses to domestic abuse.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

There were 10 recommendations made in this DHR/SAR

These included: -

- Mental Capacity – considering management and legal advice where the person is vulnerable and could be at risk. That all agencies understand their responsibilities regarding Mental Capacity.
- Considering whether a person is subject to coercion or controlling behaviour and dealing with it effectively.
- Ensuring assessments under the Care Act are effective and include all relevant information.
- Adopting a 'Think Family' approach.
- That a recommendation made in a previous local review regarding clear support pathways for those with dementia is implemented.
- That where care packages are removed consideration of all the risks and concerns are considered.

## KEY THEMES

- Identifying and responding to coercive or controlling behaviour in a caring relationship.
- Effective care and carer assessments
- Making clear pathways for support for those suffering from dementia
- All agencies understanding their responsibilities under the Mental Capacity Act
- Where there are concerns over a person vulnerability, but they are assessed as having mental capacity management and/or legal advice is sought.
- All agencies should adopt a 'Think Family' approach

