

1. Mr A was born in Pakistan, lived in Afghanistan and moved to the United Kingdom in the 1970s. He was employed as a bricklayer for a number of years. Other family members also lived in the UK. He had some contact with his sister and his nephew who lived not far from London. Mr A was found dead on the morning of 8 December 2010 at a site where he was rough sleeping - a small sheltered alleyway in West

7. Norwood. It was one month before his 64th birthday. He had been sleeping there for some months.

Visit

www.LambethSAB.org.uk to read the full SAR Report and access further resources including team learning tools, self-neglect guidance and MCA guidance.

2. Mr A was known to mental health services in Lambeth from 1997 and had a diagnosis of schizophrenia. His contact with services was not consistent over that period, and he was not registered with a GP at the time of his death. Mr A's use of alcohol was also problematic. On post-mortem examination, Mr A was found to have died from Pulmonary Oedema and Pneumonia and Hypertensive heart and kidney disease. In recent years many of those who tried to Support Mr A found him difficult to engage.

3.

A Serious Case Review was commissioned to establish whether there were lessons to be learnt from how professionals and agencies worked together to safeguard Mr A. There were some key learning points that remain pertinent.

6.

Learning Point:

Eviction proceedings were initiated against Mr A in response to rent arrears. Taking this course of action for someone who has full benefit entitlements and is mentally ill, without an alternative housing plan was a failure to understand Mr A's underlying condition and basic needs. A safeguarding concern should always be Raised when an adult at risk is facing eviction.

5.

Learning Point:

Mr A had lived many years with an untreated mental illness and was adept at avoiding intrusions into his way of life. Despite Mr A's challenging non-cooperation, it was notable that some tried very hard to stick with him. Of particular note is the practical caring provided by the shop keepers near his rough sleeping site and the persistence of Thames Reach street outreach workers in his final days. Practitioners need to look for ways of involving family or wider community in attempts to help individuals who are self-neglecting.

4.

Learning Point:

It is likely that someone with Mr A's characteristics could experience compromised cognitive functioning and mental capacity. However, Mr A's mental capacity does not appear to have ever been fully assessed. Since this review was carried out, the Lambeth SAB has worked to promote the importance of MCA as a safeguard. As part of this work they have created a [simple guide for frontline practitioners](#).