

1. Martin was a 51 year old gay man who lived alone. Martin was close to his sister and mother. He got on well with his neighbours and was involved in the life of the block of flats in which he lived. His connection with them however was dependant on how he was coping with his alcohol addiction - something he had struggled with for many years. Martin had previously assessed Substance Misuse Services but was not open to any team and had not seen his GP for some

2. Three agencies visited Martin on the 12th March 2018- the Metropolitan Police, the London Ambulance Service (LAS) and a General Practitioner (GP), all of whom tried to convince him to go to hospital. He was found lying on a soiled bed with blood/vomit around his mouth and no signs of food in the house. All were concerned about Martin's extreme self-neglect and the impact it was having on him, but Martin refused to go to hospital. He was assessed as having capacity to make this decision. Martin was found dead in his home on 16th

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

time.

March 2018

3. Adult Safeguarding referrals were made by the police and LAS to Lambeth Adult Social Care (ASC) and the GP called ASC on the same day he had seen Martin. A Safe-guarding Adults Review was commissioned to learn from the circumstances surrounding Martin's death.

6. **Learning Point:** A mental capacity assessment may need to explore more than what a person says they can do, it must also explore whether the person can put these verbal claims into some sort of meaningful action, and if they cannot, whether they are able to use and weigh this information to Make decisions about other options.

5. **Learning Point:** Whether a person is capacitated or not regarding a specific decision should not be the end of the assessment of their rationale, beliefs and physical or emotional state and the impact that these have on their decision making. This is particularly important when a person's **vital interests are at stake.**

4. **Learning Point:** ASC did not rate the response as urgent as they were told that Martin could walk and that he would make an appointment with his GP. Adult Safeguarding referrals need to appropriately convey the level and imminence of risk, in order to allow better decision making. A Complex Needs Pathway is also being developed to support multi-agency conversations and responses.

