# Seven-point briefing – Safeguarding Adults Review - "Tony". (name chosen by his family)



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#### Introduction

Barnsley Safeguarding Adults Board commissioned a statutory SAR to explore the sad death of Tony, who died of malnutrition, pneumonia and congestive cardiac failure and alcohol excess in 2024. Full report – <u>Tony's Report (2024)</u>



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Tony was a fiercely independent man who had lived in Barnsley all his adult life. He was deaf and partially sighted, due to measles. Tony received support from mental health services to manage his schizophrenia. He was a social man, maintaining relationships with family and friends, however he would end the relationships if he felt people were being "nosey". Tony loved animals and had multiple cats living with him in his property. Tony would choose to avoid workers by going out, even when appointments had been agreed. Tony's home was at times squalid, and he was often unkempt and smelly, the level of his debt was not identified until after his death.

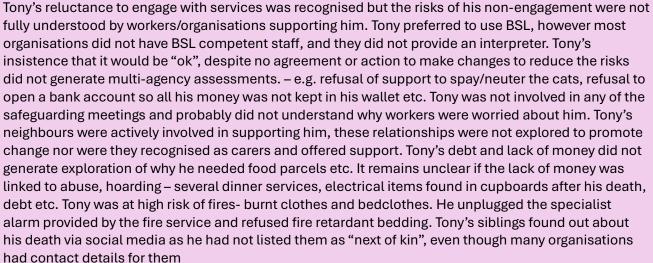
## What happened



Tony was found collapsed at a local bus stop, having refused the offer to support him to see his GP to address his fatigue and breathlessness. On admission Tony was found to be malnourished, had pressure ulcers and required an alcohol detox. Initially he responded well to treatment, sadly he developed pneumonia and died, his ability to recover was compromised by his history of smoking. No evidence was found to indicate he was a dependent drinker.

## **Key** Tony

#### **Key findings**



#### **Good Practice**



Workers showed persistence in repeating visits when Tony was not home when they visited Workers used his love of the cats to build relationships with him, work had commenced prior to his admission to install a cat flap and begin neutering/spaying

Workers organised food for Tony and the cats – food for him was often refused SYFR and the hospital used a worker with BSL skills and/or communication aids to improve communication with Tony

The specialist deaf mental health service worked with Tony for many years and he trusted them

#### **Practice Tips**



- Be curious why does someone refuse help, have no money, keep changing their next of kin, avoid contact with workers, live in a squalid home, present as unkempt and smelly?
- Recognise the significance of their history trauma bereavements, abuse, rejection etc use this to inform your approach
- Maximise relationships that the adult is confident in friends and family. Can they support the adult to manage risks? Would use of the Group Around the Person model help?
- Consider use of self-neglect and hoarding policies when someone is hoarding animals. Are they also a hidden hoarder spending money on items that are not used/needed?

- If we are not using the adult's preferred communication/language how confident are we that they understand what we are saying?
- Maintaining consistent professional relationships is difficult would the person benefit from an advocate – who may be more likely to work with them longer term?
- Adults with hearing impairments may have difficulty with written language do we need to offer them easy read information or check out that they understand the content of letters?
- Identify informal carers and offer them access to support services.



#### Recommendations from the review

10 recommendations were agreed to improve practice across the partnership and within individual organisations. Progress and impact will be monitored by the Safeguarding Adults Review Subgroup monthly and will be reported in future annual reports.



#### Resources

Self-neglect and/or hoarding policy – SN/H Policy Professional Curiosity – <u>Professional Curiosity</u> Advocacy – <u>Advocacy Resource</u> Tony SAR – <u>Tony's Report (2024)</u>