**Learning from Safeguarding Adult and Domestic Abuse Related Death Reviews**

**This briefing provides an outline of key learning following the death of Simon from a review led by Liz Cooper.**

**Simon is a pseudonym chosen to protect anonymity.**

**What Happened?**

Simon experienced alcohol misuse, mental and physical health issues for several years.

Following the breakdown of his marriage, Simon moved into a flat and he continued to drink and neglect himself.

During Covid, Peter (Perpetrator) and Peter’s girlfriend moved in with Simon. Peter was on probation.

Alcohol was an issue for Simon and Peter and there was evidence that Peter was coercing Simon and that Simon was neglecting himself.

There was evidence of cuckooing.

Peter killed Simon in early summer 2020.

**Agencies involved in the Review**

* The Police
* Probation Service
* GPs
* Mental Health Services
* Adult Social Care
* Specialist Domestic Abuse Services
* Ambulance Service

**Themes for Learning**

* Professionals not identifying Simon as being coerced and controlled by Peter.
* Professionals not understanding that Simon did have care and support needs.
* Impact of unconscious bias by professionals and how this impacted on Simon.
* Impact of Covid 19 and the management of risk.

**Recommendations**

* Adult Social Care and agencies identified in this review, take appropriate steps as identified to ensure it is consistently meeting its Care Act 2014 duties to support adults with care and support needs, especially in relation to alcohol misuse.
* SSAB raise awareness with agencies about legal power guidance to best support vulnerable chronic drinkers.
* Agencies to continue to embed professional curiosity and critical challenge within their organisation
* Agencies support professionals to understand unconscious bias.
* All agencies in the review take steps to improve record keeping and sharing of information
* Agencies to ensure that professionals understand aspects of exploitation, including cuckooing, modern slavery and how these impact on a person’s care and support needs.

**Resources**

**Alcohol Change** - <https://alcoholchange.org.uk/publication/how-to-use-legal-powers-to-safeguard-highly-vulnerable-dependent-drinkers>

**Adult Safeguarding Essentials** - [surreyskillsacademy@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:surreyskillsacademy@surreycc.gov.uk)

**Cuckooing** - [Webinar Series - Surrey Safeguarding Adults Board](https://www.surreysab.org.uk/training/learning-webinars/)

**Thank you for taking the time to read this learning briefing. If you would like to provide any feedback or have any questions, please email: DHR@surreycc.gov.uk or surreysafeguarding.adultsboard@surreycc.gov.uk**