

## Statement from Adult A's family to accompany the Safeguarding Adult Review

We as a family very much regret that a Safeguarding Adult Review was necessary in respect of this sad case involving our father Adult A. However, we feel that there were so many failures by so many Agencies involved in this case that it is essential to improve Adult Safeguarding standards in N Lincolnshire so that other families do not suffer as ours has done.

We read the statement by Moira Wilson, the Independent Chair of the N Lincolnshire Adult Safeguarding Board which states, "In North Lincolnshire we already have well established and robust multi-agency arrangements for safeguarding adults". Sadly, our experience revealed to us just how poor the multi-agency arrangements actually were. We take no pleasure in expressing our belief that there were significant failures by every agency involved in investigating Adult A's injuries.

Our father was seen on many occasions by various NHS Staff members as his injuries mounted. Not one raised Safeguarding concerns until his eventual hospital admission when we were told by a senior Doctor that his bruising and injuries were some of the worst he had seen. We only learnt for the first time during that hospital admission that our father in fact had advanced cancer. This was a bitter blow as his rapid deterioration had been put down to his dementia until then.

We still find it bewildering that three Hospital Doctors expressed concerns in writing as to the causes of Adult A's injuries. So severe were Adult A's injuries that a Medical Photographer was called in by the Hospital to record the injuries. Despite this, the "Lead Investigator", a Social Worker, didn't raise concerns or share the photographs with the Police. We cannot understand why, the photographs having been taken, no use was made of them. It was left to our family to obtain copies and supply those copies to the Police, the GP Practice, CQC, Independent Chair of The Safeguarding Board, Hospital Safeguarding, local ward councillors & Matron.

The failure by N Lincs Adult Safeguarding to invite any member of the Medical Profession to either the initial Section 42 Meeting or the subsequent "Professional's Meeting" was deeply worrying in view of the number, severity and distribution of Adult A's injuries. Equally baffling to our family was the failure to invite the Police to the Professionals Meeting. My family believe that in future it is essential that Adult Safeguarding Staff work together with the Police and Medical Staff to investigate serious injuries. We very much hope that in future, any investigation into cases involving severe multiple injuries will be led by Doctors and Police Officers not a Social Worker. We are left feeling that our elderly father was a victim of both ageism and sexism. We cannot believe that if he had been either a child or female his injuries would not have led to a Police led investigation.

Our family were shocked to find how poorly N Lincs Social Services carried out their enquiries at Adult A's Care Home. We hope it will not be left to grieving relatives in the future to point out to trained Social Workers that the Care Home records had numerous errors, even detailing use of a medication before it had been prescribed. Our confused elderly father had according to Care Home records discussed in detail events relating to his care which had never occurred.

We had expected that the CQC would be very concerned that basic legal procedures such as five Care Home residents being found not to have Deprivation of Liberty Orders in place and would have taken swift action. Sadly, that too did not occur. We note that the CQC Representative only attended 25% of the Safeguarding Adults Board Meetings.

Another matter which caused our family great distress was the failure by N Lincs Adult Safeguarding Staff to allow our elderly vulnerable father to be represented at meetings by family members who were known to have registered Lasting Power of Attorney. The Adult Safeguarding Board details the

importance of the duties enshrined in the Care Act of 2014 and yet our confused elderly father was denied representation at vital meetings. We still await an explanation by N Lincs Adult Safeguarding Staff as to why our father was denied such a basic right.

It is our hope as a family that N Lincs Adult Safeguarding Dept and the other Agencies will take on board their many failures in this case and offer an improved, safer service in the future for the benefit of the whole community.