

# Acute Training Solutions

## Safeguarding of Adults - Case Studies

### Margaret Panting

Margaret Panting was 78 years old when she died in July 2001, just weeks after moving to live with her son-in-law Peter Biggin and her teenage grandchildren at their home in Normanton Springs in Woodhouse.

A post-mortem revealed a horrific catalogue of more than 60 injuries including razor-blade cuts to Mrs Panting's stomach and chest, cigarette burns to her back armpits and black eyes.

There were so many bruises a pathologist could not count them all. But although Mr Biggin and his sons Martin, then 18 and Nathan, 16, were arrested on suspicion of murder, it could not be proven who was responsible for her injuries and no-one was ever prosecuted

### London Borough of Hounslow

This case concerned a vulnerable family who lived in the London Borough of Hounslow and was subjected to a horrific ordeal in their own home by a gang of youths. The case was heard in the High Court and the Local Authority severely criticised for not protecting this vulnerable family.

The couple and the wife's 2 daughters all had learning difficulties and were known to social services. The family were living together in a filthy and chaotic two bed-roomed ninth floor flat in Feltham. By the end of summer 2000, the couple had befriended and then been taken advantage of by a number of youths.

Some of the youths used their flat as a place at which to live, take drugs, engage in sexual activity and leave stolen goods. In October X was assaulted quite seriously in a MacDonald's restaurant by one of them who believed that he had "grassed" on him. During the weekend, of November 17 to 19, the couple were effectively imprisoned in their own home and repeatedly assaulted and abused often in the presence of the two children. They were locked in the bathroom, made to perform sexual acts. The youths threw many of the family's possessions over the balcony, forced pepper and fluid into the husbands eyes. They made him drink urine, eat dog biscuits, dog faeces. One of the youths threatened that he would be stabbed if he did not comply. They sprayed kitchen cleaner in his mouth, face and hair. They slashed him repeatedly all over his body with a knife. The children were also abused, assaulted and locked in their bedroom from time to time.

### Steven Hoskins

Steven Hoskins was a 39 year old man with learning disabilities who was subjected to harrowing abuse ending in his death in St Austell, Cornwall on 6th July 2006. He had a troubled history, had experienced a significant amount of bullying and discrimination in his life and needed support to live in the community.

Hoskins was placed in a bed sit by adult social care in April 2005 and he was allocated 2 hours of help each week but he chose to cancel the service in August and by September the council closed his case.

Hoskins then lost all control over his life when Darren Stewart and his girlfriend Sarah Bullock moved in and began to manipulate and abuse him – just prior to his death he was forced to swallow lethal doses of paracetamol, hauled around his bed sit by a dog collar and burned with cigarettes.

Hoskins body was found at the base of the St Austell railway viaduct. He was terrified of heights and had been made to walk to the viaduct where he was forced over the safety rail and made to fall 30 metres to his death by Sarah Bullock kicking his face and standing on his hands. Darren Stewart 29 and Sarah Bullock 16 were convicted of Hoskin's murder and Martin Pollard 21 of his manslaughter. Durham has now put a system in place to deal with safeguarding incidents for people like Stephen who were not clearly identified as eligible for safeguarding.

## Mr H

Mr H has mental health problems and a learning disability. He told his Community Psychiatric Nurse that he has met a 'wonderful woman' who visits every evening. However, Mr H has fallen behind on his rent and utilities payments, which is very unusual for him. Mr H doesn't know where the woman lives or her last name

## Mr S

Mr S lives in his own flat in a supported housing scheme. He has a learning disability and a part time job. Mr S tells his friend at work that the manager of the scheme collects his benefits for him and pays his bills. Mr S is vague about when he receives the rest of his money. He often seems 'hard up'.

## Mrs R - Overcoming troubles at homes

Mrs. R aged 50 had experienced years of domestic violence from her husband. After making the brave decision to leave him she moved to Dudley to be in a refuge with her two children and was then re-housed within Dudley. Unfortunately Mrs. R's life was not made any easier by the fact that she had serious health problems and recently had undergone a major operation.

Mrs. R was being supported by a social worker from Dudley Council along with a package of care to support her rehabilitation after the operation.

## Neighbourly concern

A neighbour raised concerns to their local council borough when they suspected a tenant was being financially, emotionally and physically abused by family members. The Housing Office agreed to try and obtain an injunction with the help of a statement from Adult Social Care and the carers for the tenant. An injunction was granted after verbal evidence was given from the Social Worker. The injunction bans the defendant from entering the tenant's property and also prohibits them from causing nuisance to the tenant and the support staff that enter the property