

Shared Insights safeguarding forum: Focus on self-neglect

17 June 2025

This session delved into the challenging issue of self-neglect within health and social care settings, using compassionate intervention strategies.

We focused on the following discussion points:

- Safeguarding concerns that can arise from a patient's lack of self-care and how to sensitively handle these situations.
- How to assess an individual's mental capacity to make decisions regarding their care, support, personal items and belongings.
- The importance of collaborative and clear decision making and the ways that practitioners can ensure they are robustly recording the interventions and support offered.
- Potential issues a coroner may investigate if a death results from self-neglect or hoarding.

This session was chaired by Julia Catherall, Principal Associate at Browne Jacobson, and joined by Mark Barnett, Partner. We were delighted to welcome additional speakers, including Adam Fullwood, Barrister at 39 Essex Chambers, and Nicki Lovelock, Practice Supervisor and Jacqueline Moyo, Social Worker, both within the Adult Social Care Team at Oxfordshire County Council.

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