

Multi Agency Quality Assurance Audit: Domestic Abuse & Carer Stress Jan 2026

This audit identified that carer stress, dementia, domestic abuse and family complexity frequently overlap

Theme: Apply a whole family approach

- Consider the impact of risk on everyone in the household
- Join up support for adults, carers and dependent family members
- Move beyond working with individuals in isolation
- Use Think Family principles consistently

The adults reviewed for this multi agency audit are aged between 53 and 89. 3 are female and 3 are male.

The adults in the audit have a range of issues including dementia, physical health issues, ADHD, alcohol misuse, learning disability and autism

What we are worried about?

The audit group saw concerns in terms of:

- Missed opportunities to offer or complete a carers assessment
- Acceptance of information at face value and lack of exploration
- Domestic abuse not always recognised, focus physical or mental health needs without considering domestic abuse
- Descriptions of people rather than capturing what they said
- Think Family principles not consistently applied. Often the work was with one individual and did not consider whole family system
- Male victims not identified as experiencing abuse
- Safeguarding history not always visible in records

The audit of 27th January 2026 reviewed the records of six adults who were identified as experiencing domestic abuse and carer stress. The aim of the audit was to ascertain whether there were good multi-agency standards for managing cases and whether organisations have implemented a robust and consistent response in line with statutory and good practice guidance, SGSAB policies and procedures and the six key principles underpinning all adult safeguarding work.

Consider alternative ways of understanding wishes and feelings when communication is affected by cognitive impairment/dementia

Organisations that audited their involvement with the six adults were: Adult Social Care, Sirona, Police, GPs, AWP, NBT & Voiceability

Be curious ask 'what is life at home like?'

Always consider and offer a carer's assessment

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Consider coercive control as well as physical elements of domestic abuse, ensure domestic abuse history is clearly recorded

Refer to Next Link
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What Good Practice did we see?

- Evidence of effective information sharing between adult social care, police GPs for several of the adults
- Good engagement, timely responses and clear articulation of the adults views and wishes
- Recognition that deterioration in the health of the carer was contributing to relationship difficulties and safeguarding concerns
- Family members often involved in planning and decision making
- Evidence of advocacy
- Persistence by professionals despite refusals of support

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Domestic Abuse
Multi-Agency Guidance
is available here

Domestic Abuse
Training for all
professionals is
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