Lessons Learned

Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board

Peter's Story....

Peter, who had a range of health needs, was visited by his GP at home as there were concerns about Peter's health. The GP was concerned about Peter's medical presentation, the amount of alcohol he was consuming, and that Peter appeared to be self-neglecting. Due to the medical concerns, Peter was admitted to hospital. On admission to hospital, it was made known to staff that Peter would not be able to return home to his former address and that he would be homeless on discharge. During his time in hospital, Peter responded well to treatment which included support with his alcohol dependency.

Before his discharge he was seen by a worker from the hospital social work team, however a formal assessment of needs was not completed. The fact that Peter's GP had some previous concerns about his self-neglecting behaviour was not relayed to the worker, nor was his history of alcohol dependency considered. It was, however, identified that Peter required housing on discharge, and he was eventually discharged to a local hotel – which had no cooking or refrigeration facilities. Peter's son made arrangements to bring him a hot meal on a daily basis. Sadly, Peter died in the hotel shortly after his discharge.

What we have learned...

- Whilst in hospital Peter was supported to manage his alcohol misuse. However, he did not receive any support from the alcohol liaison service and therefore community support services were not arranged.
  Learning for Practice: When planning hospital discharge ensure that all information is available to practitioners in order to obtain a full picture of potential future need.

- Peter was seen in hospital by a social care worker, however, a needs assessment was not completed or recorded.
  Learning for Practice: practitioners should ensure that hospital notes are reviewed, and assessments are appropriately recorded.

Lessons Learned (cont.)

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What we have learned (cont.)...

- Concerns were raised that Peter may have been self-neglecting prior to hospital admission, however, it is not clear that this was identified and referred appropriately by all agencies.
- **Learning for Practice:** Ensure that your knowledge of self-neglect is up to date in order to effectively identify and refer instances appropriately.

What do I need to do....

Advice for professionals

1. Familiarise yourself with your organisation's discharge planning procedure.
2. Update your knowledge in respect good practice in social care recording using advice from the Social Care Institute for Excellence.
3. Read the Warwickshire Safeguarding Adults Board's 7-Minute Briefing on self-neglect.

Advice for communities

1. Always ask to see discharge plans and assessments to ensure they meet your / your family's needs.
2. If you are worried about an adult who may be self-neglecting, contact adult Social Care and Support for advice.