



Blackburn with Darwen  
**carers service**

# Dementia

## The Carers Service assessment identified:

- Mr A was referred to our Service as a Carer for his wife through another carers service as he and his wife had moved to Blackburn to be near their son. Mrs A is in her 70's and suffers from Dementia.
- Through the Carers Assessment, it was quickly identified that there were problems in the household. It was apparent that Mr A was not coping well and that he had very little understanding of Dementia and got frustrated and exasperated with his wife for forgetting things, hiding things and leaving home and not knowing how to get back. *Mr A firmly believed that Mrs A did not have memory issues but was putting on an act*
- Mrs A appeared profoundly underweight of which Mr A said was due to her vomiting her food all the time. He had however never taken her to the doctor
- Mr A is Diabetic and said that he expected his wife to be able to look after him and the household, of which she is unable to do that now. Although Mr and Mrs A lived alone, their children and their families provided a lot of support: cooking meals, helping with washing and bathing, shopping and other household chores, but were struggling under the pressure
- Mr A said that Mrs A was always falling and he had to keep taking her to hospital, however the bruises on her face did not appear to comply with the explanation that she had fallen

## Co-ordinated support offered:

- Mr A was referred to the Alzheimer's Society who provided an adviser with language skills to support and provide him with information in regards to his wife's Dementia. Mr A was invited several times to the dementia group, with language support, but did not attend
- Mr A and his family were advised to seek medical help for Mrs A in regards to her vomiting
- A referral was made to Social Service for Occupational Therapy (OT) and Social Care Assessment
- A referral was made to Social Services for a care package for the family
- As support was being initiated, the carers son had called the adviser saying that he was extremely concerned about his mum and wanted her moved into a residential home, stating that he felt that this was the best place for her, but gave no further information
- The adviser decided therefore to visit the family before the next visit had been planned to try and gain more information on the situation. During this visit Mrs A had further bruises, was not dressed appropriately and appeared very frightened of her husband. The adviser contacted the son again who then said that he believed dad (the carer) was hurting mum

- Therefore a referral was made to the Safe-Guarding Team was made.

## Outcomes for carer:

- Initially Mrs A was seen by her GP and given medication for her sickness, OT provided suitable adaptations to the house to make it safe for the couple and Social Services provided a care pack
- The findings from the Safe-Guarding team were that they believed Mr A was mistreating his wife and concluded that she was not safe in the family home. In her best interests the decision was made to immediately remove her from the home and into residential care for her safety
- Due to further issues being identified in respect of Mr A's health and ability to support himself, his son offered to care for him in his son's family home, of which Mr A now resides
- The daughter who is looking after Mrs A has been advised to register with Accrington Carers Service as out of our area – to ensure ongoing support
- Mr A's son now cares for him and is now, himself, registered as a carer with our Service – to ensure ongoing support

## What could the long term savings be because of this support:

- The increased safety, health and well-being of both Mr and Mrs A will hugely reduce the impact upon GP time and NHS services
- Support from the family will also reduce the support needed from social services.

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