

A modern slavery case study featuring 'cuckooing'

Following a multiagency intervention, 'BT', a man with a substance misuse and criminal justice history, who had also been a carer for his mother, was found to be a victim of 'cuckooing' by other drug takers and dealers. He was relocated under the

National Referral Mechanism (NRM) scheme and subsequently agencies involved took part in an audit conducted by Nottingham City Safeguarding Adults Board. The following themes were identified:

Modern slavery (incl. 'cuckooing'), can be difficult to recognise

Professionals did not see 'BT' as a victim of 'cuckooing' because of his own substance

misuse issues and criminal history

Abusers can also be vulnerable

'BT' had previously been assessed as posing a risk to his mother. Subsequently, agencies struggled to identify the risks that

others living in his house posed to him

Professionals should make timely safeguarding referrals

In this case, Adult Social Care were asked for information but no safeguarding referral was made to them. There was also a lack of clarity about whether an agency could make a safeguarding referral or had to be

instructed by Adult Social Care to do so: Agencies do not need to wait to make a safeguarding referral

All agencies involved should be invited to MDT meetings

Although multi-disciplinary meetings had been organised to discuss concerns about 'BT', not all of the agencies involved had

been invited. This delayed an effective multi-agency adult safeguarding response

Minutes of MDT meetings and decisions should be shared

In this case, minutes of risk management meetings were not always taken or distributed, so agencies involved did not

have a clear understanding of what was happening

It is important to maintain a sense of professional curiosity

Professionals demonstrated a lack of curiosity, making assumptions about 'BT's lifestyle and not assessing risk, despite evidence of his vulnerability

Social Care Point. Tel: 0300 131 0300
Want to discuss concerns? Contact the Slavery Exploitation Team:
msvp@nottinghamcity.gov.uk

Worried about an adult? Contact Health and