

1. Arthur

Arthur was 69 when he died in the summer of 2022. Arthur was culturally Deaf, British Sign Language (BSL) was his first language. This was also the case for his wife. You can find out more about Deaf culture [here](#). Arthur and his wife were particularly supportive of each other. It was a huge upheaval when she went to a care home in 2020. Arthur had two sons and a daughter.

2. The Review

The review aimed to explore if services were equipped to meet the needs of people who are Deaf in the context of safeguarding. When Arthur's wife went into a home he struggled to cope. Arthur began to drink heavily and come to the attention of services such as the police, ambulance, hospital and social care. There is learning about the impact when one partner moves into permanent care.

3. Arthur's GP

The majority of Arthur's appointments with his GP were planned for when a BSL interpreter could attend with him, this allowed for consistency in his care and clear understanding of his health needs. Arthur's GP deemed him to have mental capacity in March 2021 about health treatments and noted that communication difficulties were overcome by writing.

8. The SAR Report

You can read the full Safeguarding Adult Review report [here](#). In general, this SAR highlights the needs for better understanding by services about the communication needs and support for people who are prelingually Deaf and to recognise signs when someone is not coping and therefore plan care in a holistic way making use of interpreters. Practitioners should seek supervision, advice and guidance when needed.



4. Misinterpretation

There were times, particularly emergency situations, where Arthur was misunderstood by professionals. He was at times seen to be aggressive when he made non-verbal sounds and moved his hands.

An awareness of different communication methods, including BSL can help professionals not misinterpret actions as aggressive.

7. Fire risk

Due to Arthur's alcohol use there was a significant fire risk within his home. This was recognised by an agency but not shared with the Fire Service.

The Fire Service can complete Safe and Well checks at properties and fit working smoke alarms. Professionals should make [referrals](#) to the Fire service where there is a potential fire risk.

6. Alcohol consumption

Despite considerable evidence and concerns about Arthur's drinking no interventions were made to support Arthur with this.

Referrals to [We are With you](#) should be discussed with the individual and professionals can seek advice in how to support dependant drinkers from the service too.

5. Access to BSL Interpreters

There were times when a BSL interpreter should have been accessed to support Arthur.

Agencies should assure themselves that they have access to BSL interpreters and that they are meeting the Accessible Information Standard.

This short [video](#) lays out how these Standards can be met.

Arthur

Safeguarding Adult Review

December 2024