

## Anne – DHR – Summary, Key Issues and Recommendations

This review examines the tragic death of Anne, a 70-year-old woman fatally stabbed by her son Ron in May 2021. Anne, frail and suffering from undiagnosed terminal cancer, was cared for by Ron, who had been her full-time carer since 2013. In the days preceding the incident, Ron made extensive efforts to seek support from multiple agencies, expressing emotional distress and concern over care costs. Despite these efforts, a coordinated care plan was not implemented in time.

### Key Issues

- **Lack of Carer Assessment:** Ron had been a carer for eight years without a formal assessment, missing opportunities to evaluate his capacity and needs.
- **Missed Medical Indicators:** Anne's significant weight loss, inability to weight-bear, and reported cracked ribs were not adequately explored by healthcare professionals.
- **Access to Support:** Ron contacted 15 agencies in the week before the homicide, but his anxiety, lack of understanding, and timing limited the effectiveness of responses.
- **Professional Curiosity:** Health and social care professionals did not sufficiently question or investigate signs of deterioration or potential abuse.
- **Impact of COVID-19:** Pandemic-related isolation and fear exacerbated the situation, reducing access to support and increasing carer stress.

### Recommendations

1. **Training for GPs and Health Professionals:** Emphasise professional curiosity, documentation, and linking carers with cared-for individuals using SNOMED codes.
2. **Integrated Carer and Care Assessments:** Local authorities should conduct joint assessments for carers and those they care for at every contact point.
3. **Awareness Campaigns:** Fenland CSP should collaborate with partners to raise awareness of domestic abuse risks in carer relationships, using this case and national research.
4. **Improved Information Sharing:** Agencies must enhance protocols for sharing concerns, especially when consent is unclear or withheld.
5. **Monitoring of Carer Stress:** Systems should be in place to identify and support carers showing signs of distress or burnout.

Link to full review:

[Domestic Violence Homicide Review - Overview Report. Death of Anne, Aged 70.](#)