Safeguarding Conference

HOARDING AND SELF-NEGLECT

Monday, 7th October 2019

Stevenage, Hertfordshire
History of Hoarding

Animal Instincts
- Squirrels

Winter Reserves
- Famine
- Wartime babies

Collyer Brothers

Andy Warhol

Edward Trebus

Coronation Street

Richard Wallace
What is Hoarding Disorder?

Definition: When a person is unable to use the rooms in their home for their intended purpose.
Triggers

- Abuse
- Bereavement
- Chronic disorganisation
- Depression
- Long term illness
- PTSD
- Empty nest
- Childhood issues
- Autism

To name but a few
Traits

• Perfectionism – fear of making a mistake
• Lack of organisation
• Overthinking
• Sentimental
• Aesthetic
• Just in case
• Overcategorizing
• Fear of loss
The Impact of Hoarding

Families suffer when their basic needs are not addressed through loss of functionality within the home and families are prevented from carrying out activities caused by hoarding, such as:

• Use of bathroom included toilet, sink and bath/shower

• Use of kitchen, such as limited kitchen surface, oven, refrigerator and table

• Restricted living space to sleep, eat and relax impacts greatly on family life
• Nowhere to wash clothing, bedding and towels

• Living conditions – loss of heating, structural damage, loss of water

• Hygiene suffers massively which has knock on effects with children at school and bullying as well as self esteem issues
• Structural damage, blocked exits, fire hazards, damp, mildew and mould

• Impact on health – dust and damp contribute greatly to respiratory conditions

• Fire safety needs are not being met

• Repairs in the house are not able to be carried out
The Visual Problem

These are Clutter Image Ratings that have been done from a previous study which are widely used across the world.

This shows the severity of the problem in many homes across the UK. 3-6% of the UK suffer from this mental illness which is potentially 1.2 million people.

Hoarding Disorder is a mental health concern that manifests itself physically and impacts on not only other family members, children and pets but also has social, health and safety implications for neighbours and the wider local community.
Multi Agency Working

- Creates a safer and healthier environment for the individual and others affected by the hoarding behaviour, e.g. family, neighbours.

- Develops a multi-agency pathway which will maximise the use of existing service’s and resources and which may reduce the need for compulsory solutions.

- Ensures that when solutions are required, there is a process for planning solutions tailored to meet the needs of the individual and utilising a person centred approach. Possible solutions should include professional support and monitoring, property repairs and permanent or temporary re-housing.

- Develops creative ways of engaging individuals in the process.

- To establish best practice and improve knowledge of legislation that relates to hoarding behaviour through the Hoarding Liaison Group.
Motivation
The Care Act 2014

The Care Act introduced three new indicators of abuse and neglect to Adult Safeguarding. The most relevant to Hoarding Disorder is self-neglect.
The Mental Capacity Act

- The Mental Capacity Act 2005 provides a statutory framework for people who lack capacity to make decisions for themselves.

- Does the person lack capacity to make decisions about their self-neglect or hoarding?
Questions
Advice and Guidance