



Alcohol Dependence, Neglect and Coercive Control

D19 · Domestic abuse-related death review learning

EVIDENCE

A completed review highlighted the risk of focusing on alcohol dependence while overlooking neglect, coercive control and the relational conditions affecting health and help-seeking.

LEARNING FOR PRACTICE

- 01** Alcohol-related harm should be assessed alongside relationships, safety, care and support needs.
- 02** Apparent refusal or disengagement may be shaped by coercion, dependency or restricted choices.
- 03** Repeated health deterioration should prompt cumulative safeguarding review.
- 04** Professionals should seek the person's voice privately and clarify who is coordinating support.

REFLECTIVE QUESTIONS

- Are we seeing beyond alcohol use?
- Could another person be restricting care or choices?
- What does repeated deterioration show over time?
- Who holds the whole safeguarding plan?

PRACTICE ACTIONS

Assess relational safety.

Revisit care and support needs.

Coordinate cumulative-risk responses.

Publication note: This briefing presents generalised, transferable learning. Names, locations, exact dates and distinctive personal details have been removed. It does not replace statutory guidance, organisational procedures or case-specific professional judgement.