

Case study on mental capacity and self-neglect: George

George is a 93-year-old man who lived in his own accommodation. He had several on-going health conditions including a colostomy bag following colon cancer. He was suspected to have dementia, awaiting an assessment. George received support from several agencies including home care and was known to various health services.

A friend who helped George day-to-day had become his informal carer and raised concerns about George's ability to live independently. This friend sadly passed away in January 2018.

On 4 December 2018, George phoned the police thinking he may have been burgled. The police found him in a severely neglected condition, and he was taken to hospital by ambulance. Since then he has moved to a 24-hour care home where he is now thriving.

In this case, recognising and reporting issues around mental capacity status and fluctuating capacity was not evident.

For more information, including learning please follow link: George's story ([7 minute briefing](#)).