**Jane and John Case Study Part 1**

Jane was 60 years old and lived with her husband John. For some years there had been concerns regarding their living conditions, but each time adult social services became involved the couple cleaned up their property and the concerns decreased.

A new safeguarding referral highlighted further deterioration which was affecting Jane’s health. She had attended at a Day Hospital in a severe state of self-neglect. Jane appeared unkempt; she was dressed in unwashed and oversized men’s clothing; her clothes, fingernails and walking frame was covered in pet faeces; the dressings on her legs were described as filthy.

The hospital staff spoke to Jane about putting support in place for her at home, but she declined this, saying that she and her husband do not want to have other people in their house. There was no doubt that she had capacity to make her own decisions.

The Day Hospital staff did however seek advice from the Adult Safeguarding Team and Jane was allocated a safeguarding senior practitioner and a referral was made to a Local Area Co-ordinator (LAC) to build a relationship with Jane in the hope that she would allow access to their home and accept further support from other services.

The LAC arranged a joint home visit with a staff member from the Day Hospital, who knew Jane well. They met with Jane outside her house, as she wouldn’t let them into the house. It was apparent even from the outside that the house was in a severe state of neglect and there was a strong smell of pet faeces. Jane still declined support, but a referral was made to the Local Authority’s Environmental Health Team, due to concerns over their unsanitary living conditions. The Environmental Health Team visited the property and found the house to be squalid and severely cluttered, there was no hot running water and almost everything was covered in pet faeces. There were approximately 15 pets in the house. Jane and John were still declining any support with cleaning the house but concerns for Jane’s health and wellbeing were now too great not to take any actions.