

## Issue for consideration of Priorities Panel

***For official use only:***

Issue ID Number:009

Date received by Operational Director

: \_\_ 04 \_\_ / \_\_ 09 \_\_ / \_\_ 2009 \_\_

Date to Priorities Panel

\_\_ 09 \_\_ / \_\_ 09 \_\_ / \_\_ 2009 \_\_

***Office use:***

Name:

(JJ, RA, KT, All)

Date completed and initials:

Date of referral to LINK	__ 01 __ / __ 04 __ / 2009 __
Date issue arose	__ 31 __ / __ 01 __ / 2005 __
Title (Headline/short title of issue)	Financial Abuse of Self Funders (and other Vulnerable Adults)
Nature of interest/standing of person in relation to issue:	
Recipient of service	Family      Friend X      Advocate/Campaigner      X
Other	
If other, please state what their standing is in relation to the issue:	
Is the person raising the issue a:	
LINK participant?	X
Member of the public?	
Priorities Panel Member?	
Governor Group Member	
LINK Development Worker	
Part of an organisation	

<p>If raising issue on behalf of an organisation, state name and brief details of what they do</p>	<p><i>Originator of this issue – this does not apply to but since this has been raised several other parties have raised concerns – one being Age Concern T.Wells (see memo attached)</i></p>
<p>Summarise issue (no more than 100 words). If necessary, a more detailed account may be submitted on page three with additional pages attached if necessary</p>	<p><i>Concerns have been raised by a number of participants throughout Kent. Together with this formal request to investigate allegations of emotional and financial abuse amongst the older population.</i></p> <p><i>In particular those who are known as ‘self funders’ (having no dependants or care management support)</i></p> <p><i>Please see supporting evidence on one particular case provided, where an accountant has got an elderly lady to move away from familiar surroundings in North Kent to Tenterden (where he lives, and she has no network of friends, and no relatives alive) sign over her property and finances. Since concerned friends have looked into this matter, they have discovered he has done the same to 7 other old people. The police were brought in to investigate, but said there was nothing they could do as he had been extremely clever covering his tracks. (attachments 2 - )</i></p>
<p>Please use this space to give a detailed account of the issue to be raised with the Priorities Panel. (N.B: Form will expand to accommodate additional text – other documentation can be appended, as necessary)</p> <p><i>The issue being raised with the Priorities Panel therefore, is that those older people with sufficient funds and little knowledge of the role of Social Services and other agencies that could advise them, together with primarily having no dependants, currently have no protection from unscrupulous professionals (i.e. generally people thought to be in a position of trust – accountants and solicitors etc.)</i></p> <p><i>They are thought to be acting in the best interests of their clients, but in some cases, clearly are not. Evidence has to be established to prove that people are signing over all their personal assets. Many coerced, then moved away from friends and familiar locations.</i></p>	

<p>Is the issue currently under investigation, via a complaint or inquiry or being dealt with by somebody else (this includes being part of a wider campaign on the issue)?</p> <p>Yes <span style="margin-left: 300px;">No</span> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   <span style="margin-left: 300px;">(not currently)</span></p> <p>If yes, give details of actions already taken including contact details of others dealing with the issue:</p> <p>In the original case mentioned has been under investigation by the police – but since dropped as couldn't be proven.</p>	
<p>Is there a timescale/deadline/circumstance affecting this issue which may mean the LINK will have to act quickly, e.g. closure of a unit, change of service, a particular urgency?</p> <p>Yes <span style="margin-left: 300px;">No</span> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>   <span style="margin-left: 300px;">(but due to the serious nature of this matter would like it to be given URGENT PRIORITY STATUS)</span></p> <p>If yes, what is that circumstance and what is the timescale by which action has to be taken?</p>	
<p>What expectation does the person raising the issue have of the LINK, i.e. what does that person want the LINK to do/what action does it want it to take?</p> <p><i>Invite participants to share experiences to see the extent of the problem in Kent, then take appropriate action.</i></p>	
<p>What would be a good outcome from the perspective of the person raising the issue?</p> <p><i>A change in legislation to protect older people and other vulnerable adults and prosecution of those guilty by obtaining their personal assets by unlawful means.</i></p>	
<p>What evidence does the person raising the issue have to support the case they are putting for the LINK to take action? List or attach evidence and sources, if available.</p> <p><i>Letters to and from solicitors (participant and other party) Concerns of Age Concern Tunbridge Wells. Also solicitors have approached the LINK with similar</i></p>	

*concerns and are willing to offer an advice service (pro bono) to anyone that needs assistance or has concerns.*

How widely does this issue affect other people?

*This is felt to be a growing problem not just Kent –wide but across the whole Country. It can affect their quality of life, causing unnecessary hardship and stress, freedom of choice (as in the case given),*

In what ways are other people affected by this issue.

*Friends and neighbours feel they have failed to protect loved ones, and let them down. Their loss is even harder to cope with when they die.*

Signed.....*Elayne Oxley LDW for West Kent*.....

Date.....4<sup>th</sup> September 2009.....