
Making Safeguarding Personal Toolkit

Case Example 8: Making a safe enquiry





Case Example

Ayesha

Ayesha, 66, was born in Pakistan and came to the UK with her husband, Tariq. She was 18, he was 28. They have four children and seven grandchildren. During their marriage Tariq was physically and verbally abusive to Ayesha and was controlling of her and their children. Ayesha stayed with her husband for the sake of the children and her family's izzat (honour).

Ayesha's first language is Urdu; she speaks very little English. Tariq did not see a need for her to learn. Tariq died two years ago following a short illness. Bilal, Ayesha's eldest son, moved in with her after Tariq died. Bilal is widowed and has no children. Bilal often tells Ayesha how lucky she is to have a devout son who has come home to look after his mother.

Bilal uses the whole house, apart from her bedroom, as his own. Bilal often yells at her and Ayesha feels in his way in the lounge especially if he is watching television with his friends. She spends most of her time in her bedroom.

Bilal collects Ayesha's pension and does the food shopping on a weekly basis. He says she deserves to rest, not carry heavy bags on the bus. Ayesha used to enjoy cooking but now she gets stressed in case a meal doesn't please him. Sometimes he wants a full meal cooked quickly for his friends.

Ayesha is often tearful and is very tired all the time. She has lost weight and is not sleeping. She finds it hard even to pray. This upsets Ayesha as her faith is important to her.

Normally the family visit monthly at the weekend. Recently her daughter Amnam, came to visit unexpectedly. She is worried that Ayesha is having problems with taking care of herself. She says Ayesha needs help to keep clean, wash her clothes and she thinks Ayesha is avoiding drinking too much because getting to the bathroom is difficult for her. Amnam wants Ayesha to have a social care assessment, so that she can have help with personal care from a woman if she needs it. Amnam convinced Bilal, who agreed, providing he could interpret for her.

A social worker, Marhaid, comes to the house with Ali, a social work student who speaks some Urdu. After the meeting Ali convinces Marhaid that Bilal had not been interpreting everything Ayesha said and that they should see Ayesha with a professional interpreter.



Reflective questions

How would you make safe enquiry with Ayesha?

Who will meet with her?

Where?

How will you contact her to arrange the meeting?

This Case Example is one of five available to support practice and learning in working in situations of coercive control. You can find more information and the DASH-RIC assessment at: www.tiny.cc/ayesha