



Case study three: John and George

Vignette

John is 70, and a retired solicitor who lives in a comfortable home in a rural village with his son, George. His wife, Violet, died when George was 20. John's health deteriorated two years ago following a heart attack; he had a programme of reablement for six weeks following his return from hospital and shortly afterwards his son George moved in to support him. John finds it tiring to do anything physical. His continuing heart problems mean he has become more and more dependent on George over time, and has started to need support with his personal care. His heart condition has resulted in him recently being diagnosed with vascular dementia.

George does most of the housework, gardening, shopping, cooking, cleaning and walking the dogs. George has an acquired brain injury from a motorbike accident which happened soon after his mother died. This has resulted in him experiencing lifelong disability including headaches, depression and mood swings. He has difficulties with his memory and attention and can be irritable and aggressive at times. George has never been able to manage working full-time but before living with his father he worked in a shop part-time. He stopped working when he moved to care for John. Moving in with his father also meant that the financial difficulties he was facing as a result of his rent increases were reduced.

John's pension provides them both with enough money to live on. George is not claiming any benefits and has refused to be assessed as a carer. John has suggested recently that he could bring in a care worker to do some of the jobs that George is undertaking. George will not hear of this, insisting that he is fine and he doesn't mind looking after his dad. He became angry with John, asking why John couldn't have confidence in him "like a father should in a son". However, when he is angry he also complains that he doesn't have time to live his own life any more.

John's GP has contacted social services because John reported that George has started to become violent towards him. George has threatened violence and actually punched and kicked John on a number of occasions. John wants help for George, and agreed to a meeting with a social worker to discuss what help might be available..



How would you make safe enquiry with both John and George?

Who will meet with each of them?

Where?

How will you contact them to arrange the meeting/s?