



Case Study – Protection

Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service's Prevention and Protection team support adults in various ways including fire safety visits.

Following a fire at "Gareth's" home one of the team along with a Housing Officer went to see Gareth. The fire safety issues included:

- risk of fire from a lot of clutter near the cooker in the kitchen
- the means of escape if another fire happened

The Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service officer discussed the risks caused by the clutter in the kitchen and advised it be cleared to reduce the risk.

During the visit the Shropshire Fire and Rescue Service Officer identified other concerns about the Gareth's well-being and safety because of the behaviour of Gareth's partner:

- on entry to the house the Officer felt Gareth's partner was controlling in her behaviour towards him
- Gareth asked to go somewhere else to talk, rather than his home
- the Officer agreed to this but first suggested checking the smoke alarm
- the partner suggested Gareth, who had learning disabilities could not read yet he was able to read out parts of the Fire and Rescue booklet
- when giving fire safety advice about the cooking area the partner became quite verbally abusive towards Gareth, about the kitchen and cooking
- when the Fire and Rescue Officer discussed means of escape - ensuring the keys to the door were easily accessible in case of a fire - it emerged that Gareth was not trusted with keys as "he could run away"
- the Fire and Rescue Officer was informed that Gareth was locked in at the discretion of the partner

Action: following the visit the Fire and Rescue Officer was concerned for the welfare of the Gareth, including potential domestic abuse involving financial and psychological abuse. This was reported to the Housing Association and adult safeguarding via First Point of Contact 0345 6789044. This resulted in a Section 42 Enquiry to identify what the man wanted to be done in order to be safe.