



## Case study four: Vignette

**Name:** Anne Woolsey

**Gender:** Female

**Age:** 92

**Ethnicity:** White British

**First language:** English

**Religion:** Christian faith (Anglican Church)

Anne is married to Arthur, 94. They have been married for over 70 years and live in their own bungalow in a village. Anne and Arthur have two daughters, five grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. The family are quite dispersed across the country. Their nearest daughter Carol, who lives 40 miles away, visits twice a month. Daughter Jean visits every other month. Both daughters phone regularly. Their neighbour Betty calls in most days.

Arthur has end stage Chronic Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and is nearing the end of his life. Arthur is currently housebound, using oxygen at home. He has support from a Community COPD nurse. Anne has provided care for Arthur for eight years, and the support that he needs is increasing. The COPD affects Arthur's mobility and he is unable to get to the toilet in time at night. Most mornings he awakens with soiled sheets which distresses him. Anne continues to look after the home and has started to manage the finances, which previously Arthur did. Anne and Arthur find it difficult to talk with each other about Arthur's death. They would both like Arthur to die at home, with his wife and daughters.

Anne's health is generally good, though she has mild arthritis and takes tablets for stable angina. However, she is becoming less strong and more tired. Anne has some hearing impairment and finds it difficult to read small print. Anne devotes her time to caring for Arthur and no longer goes to church. Both were previously active in the community and attended a local lunch club. Anne is determined to be there for Arthur and does not like to leave him, even with someone else. Her main concern is that she will not be able to support Arthur till the end. Anne is beginning to find it difficult to look after the home and garden, and to feel quite isolated. She is not confident in managing the family finances and is not sure how she will manage when Arthur is gone.

Carol is concerned about her mother not sleeping well and looking tired. She rings the local authority. You go out and complete the initial assessment and support plan with Anne. As part of this you talk to Arthur, Carol, Jean and Betty.