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Case study three: Vignette

Name: Joan O’Leary

Gender: Female

Age: 76

Ethnicity: White Irish

Religion: Catholic

Disability: dementia with Lewy Bodies

First language: English

Family: Estranged and in Ireland

Location: Village in South West

Joan lives in a house in a small village. She has lived there for 28 years. She has two dogs and 11 chickens. Joan has always been quite private but is well known in her village. She goes to the nearby town on the bus to church, visits the local shop and community café, and goes away frequently. Joan goes for a long walk with her dogs each day. Joan hadn’t been to her GP for 6 years.

The café owner, Margaret, was worried about Joan. Joan has appeared very forgetful and disorientated. She has been seen in the village wearing her slippers and her neighbours have seen her out late at night with her dogs. Margaret went to Joan’s house and wasn’t allowed in but thought there was quite a strong smell.

Margaret phoned the GP in the village who went round to Joan’s house and persuaded her to have some tests. She has been diagnosed with moderate dementia with Lewy Bodies.

The GP phoned social services and you go out to do an assessment.