

# research in practice

## About George

### George's story

George Cook and David Taylor grew up in the same small border town and went to the same all-boy's school in Wales. George moved away to London and became a lawyer. They are non-binary (pronouns they, them), and have a busy work and social life. David was diagnosed with depression when he was in his late 30s. He lives alone and is often unemployed, and is a regular drug user. David's parents are both dead and his friends have drifted away, apart from George.

George loves their childhood friend and wants to make sure he is ok. They go back to visit David every 4-6 weeks, whenever work allows. It is a 3 hour trip each way, and George usually stays overnight, tidies up, encourages David to go out for a walk, and brings shopping and anything David needs. George usually gives David some money, though they worry what David might spend it on.

George is finding the physical toll of the visits is getting too much. The greatest impact, though, is emotional. David sends frequent messages, including through the night, and George doesn't feel able not to respond. At times, the messages are very low and George will call and be on the phone for hours. One time, David did not answer and George drove to see him, missing an important work meeting.

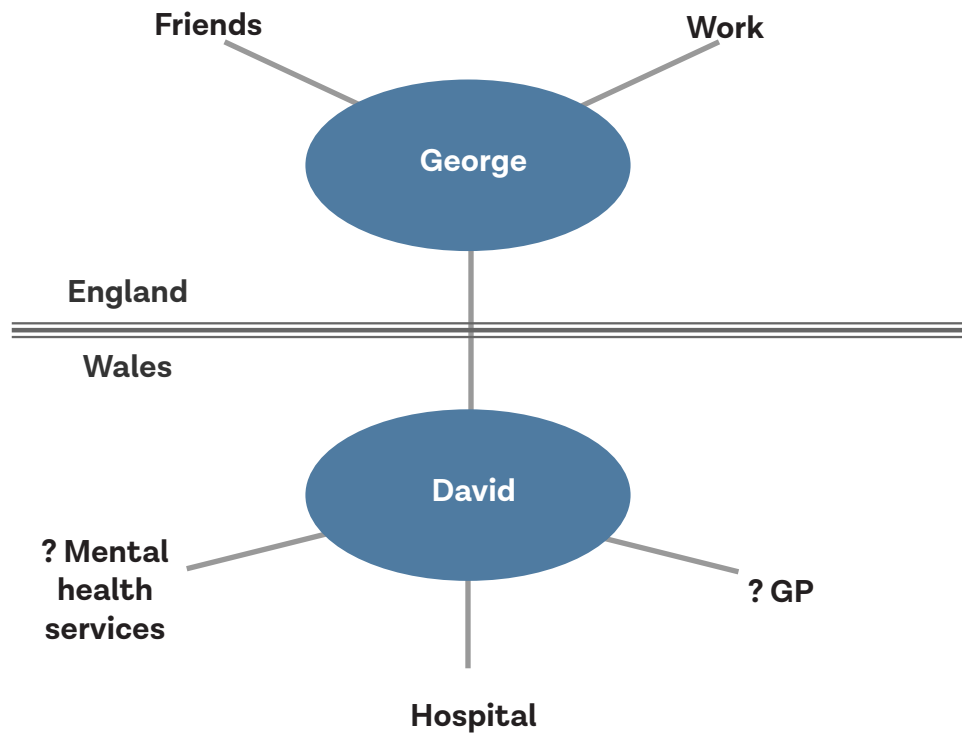
George has no idea what would help. They have called the council and said they need to talk to someone who knows about social services. The person they spoke to said that they could talk to a social worker to get some advice but it is complex because David lives in Wales.

You are the social worker and arrange a video call with George.

### One-page profile

What others like and admire about me	What is important to me
<p>I am a good colleague</p> <p>I don't let my friends down</p>	<p>I am worried something will happen to David</p> <p>I need more of a life</p> <p>I need to focus on my job properly and not be so distracted</p>
How best to support me	
<p>Just tell me what help is out there and I will get it sorted</p> <p>The council said that it's complicated because David is in Wales so I need help to know how things work and get in touch with them</p>	

## Ecogram



### Questions

How can you ensure that borders are not a barrier to good social work?

How can you support George to have the relationship that they want with their friend?

How can you help people to balance risk enablement and risk management?