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# Woman stabbed to death by mentally ill son after failures by NHS trusts

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Police at the scene on Auriel Avenue, Dagenham, where Caroline Adeyelu was stabbed to death by her son (*Image: PA*)

Serious failures and inaction by NHS trusts contributed to the death of a woman who was stabbed to death by her mentally ill son, a jury ruled.

[Nicholas Aina](#), 31, killed his 64-year-old mum [Caroline Adeyelu](#) by stabbing her in the chest and arm at their home on Auriel Avenue, Dagenham, in October 2022.

He was suffering from severe psychosis with delusions about electric voltage, being the “king of Africa” and that his mum was practicing black magic against him.

On Thursday (March 5) East London Coroner Nadia Persaud issued a scathing Prevent Future Deaths report criticising North East London Foundation NHS Trust (NELFT) and East London Foundation NHS Trust (ELFT) for their failures in Aina's care.

A jury inquest concluded in December: "Caroline Adeyelu was unlawfully killed. A probable cause of her death was serious failures/inaction in care provided to the subject by ELFT and NELFT which contributed to her death.

"These consisted of insufficient communication regarding the transfer of care and inadequate engagement with Caroline's family for a broader risk assessment.

"Furthermore, despite a documented history of repeated violent incidents, no robust home risk assessments, safeguarding measures, or relapse plans were implemented for the subject or the family."

In her report, Ms Persaud said the evidence from the inquest reflected a "very poor appreciation of the risks posed to Adeyelu by her mentally unwell adult son".

She said the poor appreciation of the risk was observed at all levels of clinical staff.

Aina was discharged with a diagnosis of acute transient psychosis in October 2020.

Despite Caroline informing NELFT that she was fearful of her son, the matter was not referred to the safeguarding team and Caroline was advised to issue an eviction notice to her son.

When in early 2021 Caroline received death threats from her son, the ELFT failed to notify police.

Ms Persaud said: "Whilst I note that the safeguarding training within the trusts includes reference to the adult child to parent domestic abuse, I am concerned that the extent of training on this subject is insufficient to address the widespread concerns encountered in this case."

The coroner referenced the Femicide Census which found that of women killed by immediate family members, over 80 per cent of the victims were mums killed by their sons.

In those cases, the mental health of the perpetrator was a factor in 58 per cent of the case.

