

# research in practice

## About Jake

### Jake's story

Jake Adler is 63 and looks after his wife Deborah. Deborah was diagnosed with Parkinson's two years after they got married. They were both widowed and met through the Jewish community group. They each have two sons, who visit regularly, as well as friends and neighbours that they see often.

Over the last year, Deborah has found it increasingly difficult to leave the house and is reluctant to have visitors. Jake has gradually given up his social activities and has not renewed his season ticket for the football.

Jake was an engineer so he has done some DIY in their home to make things easier for Deborah. He provides all the physical help that she needs and manages everything in the home. Jake has taken pride in not asking anyone for help. A few months ago, a friend suggested that he went along to a support group for family of people with Parkinson's. Jake found that most people there were women and that he didn't want to talk about Deborah's illness. He just wanted someone to talk to about the things he was interested in.

Deborah has become more withdrawn and Jake misses her even though she is there. The social network had been maintained by Deborah and so they are now falling out of touch with people.

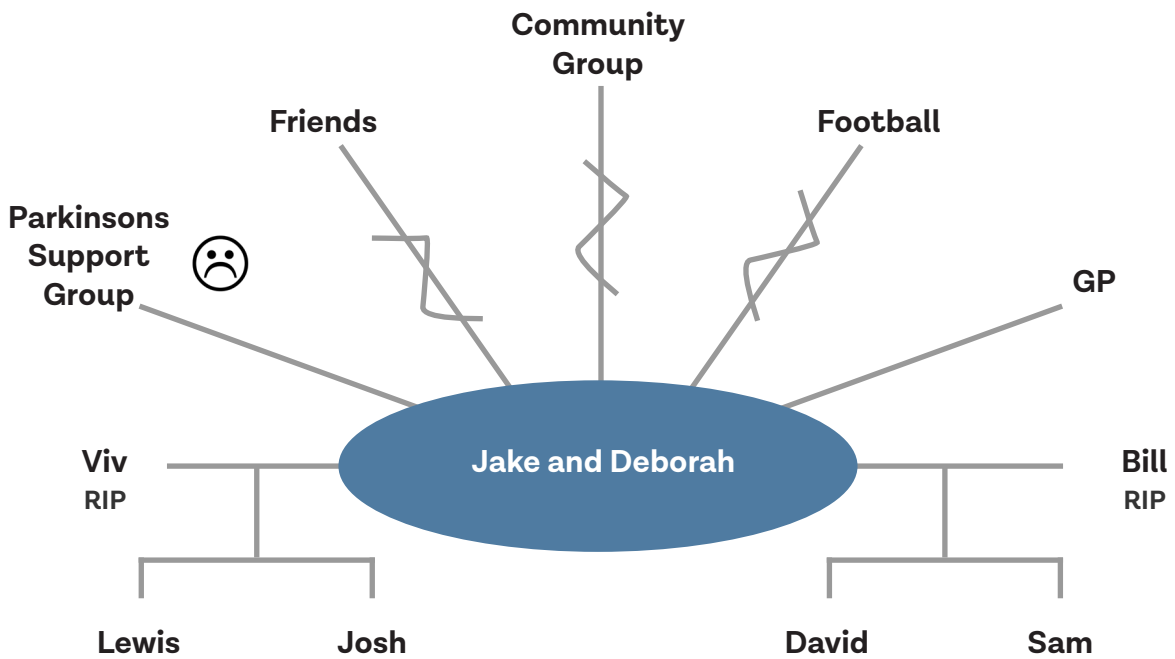
One of the neighbours suggested that Jake ask the council about a ramp to get in and out of the house, and so he phoned up and agreed to a carer's assessment.

You are the social worker and arrange to meet Jake in a café to talk.

### One-page profile

What others like and admire about me	What is important to me
I keep my promises	Loyalty
I can fix anything	Not complaining but getting on with it
	Not putting a burden on our children, they have their own lives
How best to support me	
Practical help	
Not going on about what can't be helped	
Some way of letting off steam	

## Ecogram



### Questions

How can social work empower people as carers if they do not see themselves as having this role?

How do gender differences and socially configured roles affect experiences of caring?

What is the social work role in tackling loneliness?