



7 Minute Briefing

Child Practice Review. CPR 05/2019

Background

A Concise Child Practice Review was commissioned by CVSB in accordance with the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 guidance for Multi Agency Child Practice Reviews.

Toby was a 17 year old male, who was found dead in August 2019. He had been fatally stabbed. Four individuals were subsequently convicted of murder, and three individuals were found guilty of manslaughter.



Organisational Learning

Learning

The following key areas of organisational learning were identified in the review:

- Safeguarding during adolescence.
- Information sharing and early intervention.
- Disengagement from Education, employment and training.
- Reporting concerns.
- Adolescent safeguarding considerations.



Recommendations for improving systems and Practice cont/d

4. Reporting concerns

All agencies must ensure appropriate follow up by referrer when they make a referral in relation to a child at risk and consider appropriate professional challenge if they do not agree with the decision making.

5. Adolescent safeguarding considerations

All agencies involved in strategy discussions / meetings considering young people at risk of exploitation, must consider relevant historical information, mapping of associations and identified escalations in concerning behaviours, held by their own agencies. This mapping/ history must then be considered jointly by all involved agencies, for decision making and planning.

Improvements to Practice

• Attendance at A&E

C&V University Health Board has a Violence and Prevention Team based in the Accident and Emergency Department (A&E) who engage with patients who have been / are suspected to have been assaulted. The team has now increased its remit to include children and young people.

• School Nursing Service

Since October 2021 there are now two Emotional Wellbeing nurses in post, supporting children not in mainstream education.

(see report for further details)

STEP 01

01



Context

In the months leading up to his death, there had been multiple concerning incidents involving Toby. These included significant threats to Toby and his family with the sighting of a firearm, admissions to A&E with significant injuries likely resulting from a violent incident and information that Toby was involved in the supply of drugs and criminal activity, including stealing cars and being involved in threatening behaviour with weapons. There was also disengagement from mainstream education at the age of 16.

Information from agencies highlighted safeguarding concerns, including involvement and continued risk of child criminal exploitation, which was not adequately shared and related strategy meetings not held.

It is unclear whether Toby had any choice over his involvement in the distribution of drugs, or whether he was forced into this activity and trafficked between areas to supply drugs.

STEP 02

02

STEP 03

03



Recommendations for improving systems and Practice

The recommendations made from the they key areas of organisation learning:

STEP 04

04

1. Safeguarding during adolescence

Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board to further develop the training matrix to include specific training on safeguarding concerns that arise during adolescence. The Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board must ensure that the need to safeguard young people is promoted and strengthened. Professionals need advice and training on how a young person develops to understand risk and consequences.

2. Information sharing & early intervention

Children's Services must ensure that any impact of a young person's behaviour and associations on any other children within the family forms part of all assessments undertaken following a PPN / MARF. Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board must review the current support available for young people at risk of exploitation, building upon the Safeguarding Adolescents from Exploitation (SAFE Model in Cardiff). Resources, advice and support services must be promoted to the public more widely.

STEP 05

05

3. Disengagement from education, employment and training

Where there are concerns around a young person, it is essential that education is always part of the safeguarding considerations. This is particularly important where a young person is educated outside of mainstream school placements.

STEP 06

06

Improvements to Practice

• PPN submission/rationale

Improvements are in place to ensure the appropriate submission and sharing of Public Protection Notices (PPN). It is now mandatory within South Wales Police for a PPN to be submitted for any child brought into custody, including those attending voluntary interviews. Any young person (aged 10-17) brought into custody is also offered access to a Custody Youth Worker. The receipt of high risk PPNs for young people result in an immediate response from Children's Services, MASH (Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub) assessment and a multi-agency plan.

STEP 07

07

• Information sharing between agencies

Child exploitation meetings are held where the VOLT (victim, offender, location, theme) model is used for all types of exploitation, allowing professionals to identify victims and offenders, and to map and understand the associations and vulnerabilities within groups.

• Disengagement from education, employment & training

Education have a Fresh Start Panel to support children/young people moving between schools and a Fair Access Panel' (FAP) which supports children and young people with behavioural/social difficulties to move to alternative provision.

