



# 7 Minute Briefing

Adult Practice Review APR032020

## Background

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

B, was a 18 year old male who was believed to be at risk of criminal exploitation and associated with possession of weapons and drug dealing offences. He had been arrested in possession of weapons and had been in possession of large amounts of cash when previously apprehended by the police. He was found stabbed to death 2 weeks after his 18th week birthday.



## Organisational Learning

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

- Missed opportunities for multi-agency information sharing.
- Record keeping and documentation.
- Accessibility of advice and information for young people and their parents/carers on organised crime and criminal exploitation.
- Multi agency training opportunities.
- Transition from child to adult safeguarding services.
- Working with parents/carers with limited English.
- Youth Justice Service and allocation of new cases when officers are on leave.

## Recommendations Continued

4. Practitioners across all agencies should be reminded of the importance of accurate record keeping including management decision making.

5. Concerns were raised at the Learning Event about the retention of social workers, and the over reliance on agency staff who can leave positions with little notice resulting in gaps in provision for vulnerable children and young people. Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board need to provide assurances that the challenges surrounding retention and recruitment are being met robustly and with resilience and that risks are highlighted to Welsh Government.

6. Currently there is little content on the Cardiff and Vale Regional Safeguarding Board website on avenues for help for criminally exploited children and young people and their carers. The Board need to ensure that they are effectively publicising resources and support to young people and their carers as to how and where they can seek support and advice around exploitation and organised crime. The Learning Event participants also voiced that advice and support needs to be offered via other social media platforms.

7. Professionals at the learning event highlighted that multi-agency training events supported less insular working practices and would help improve the quality of their safeguarding reports. Cardiff and the Vale Safeguarding Board should ensure that multi-agency safeguarding training events are made available to staff. Where multi-agency training is offered in the region, the importance of such events needs to be reiterated to managers to ensure that staff are released to attend.

8. A newly developed exploitation training matrix provides bespoke opportunities for staff to upskill in this area. Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board should be assured that this matrix has been shared across agencies to enable individual agencies to identify staff required to attend training.

9. The learning event spoke about the challenges around transition from child to adult safeguarding services. Young people continue to be at risk from exploitation when they turn 18 and there can be fewer opportunities to engage. Cardiff and the Vale Safeguarding Board should ensure that there is an effective multi-agency approach to transitional safeguarding within the region.

STEP 01

STEP 02

STEP 03

STEP 04

STEP 05

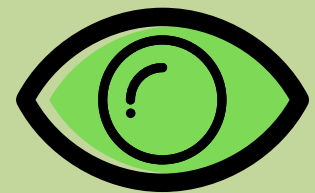
STEP 06

STEP 07



## Context

There was a lack of multi-agency meetings to assist with safety planning or structured activities to help him disengage from a criminal lifestyle. It seems that his age was one of the factors that contributed to a lack of coherent planning from agencies. There were missed opportunities to engage him and his family via a Child in Need of Care and Support Plan and a missed opportunity to ensure that a referral was made and received by St Giles Trust (a charity that helps divert young people from organised crime).



## Recommendations for Improving Systems and Practice

There were 12 recommendations made from the key areas of organisational learning:

1. Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board need to be satisfied that all agencies are aware of how to identify exploitation and the appropriate pathway/ referral mechanism to ensure multi-agency meetings (MASM) take place. This would include the appropriate professionals also being present at MASM's, who are trained and equipped to care plan around reducing the risk of exploitation to children.

2. B missed out on an opportunity to engage with St Giles Trust as there seemed to be confusion as to who was referring B to that charity. Effective Care and Support Plans must have clear outcomes with time limited actions assigned to named professionals. Cardiff and Vale Safeguarding Board to be assured that all Care and Support Plans are appropriately managed and reviewed.

3. The Care and Support Plan for B should have been transferred to another social worker after an agency social worker left. This did not happen. There needs to be more robust management oversight of any unallocated families and systems need to be in place to ensure those families are kept in contact with or children will be detrimentally affected together with their families.

## Recommendations Continued

10. Concerns were raised that B's siblings were often used to translate for B's parents. This could have resulted in B's parents not being fully involved and informed of B's troubles. B's parents were also not contacted by the Youth Justice Service worker who wrote the Pre-Sentence Report. A review of the use of translation/interpreter services by Cardiff Social Services should be undertaken.

11. B expressed concerns for his own safety in a pre-sentence report interview and there was no documentation to support that a safeguarding report had been made. The Youth Justice Service need to provide further assurance that relevant safeguarding reports are made if safeguarding concerns are raised in any interactions with young people.

12. The panel were assured that work is ongoing within South Wales Police to improve the response to Child Criminal Exploitation. A progress update on this work should be provided to the Safeguarding Board within 6 months.

