

East Riding Safeguarding Children Partnership

Learning Lessons Review into an East Riding young person

Practitioners Briefing

Themes:

- ◆ Adolescent / parent violence.
- ◆ Contextual safeguarding.
- ◆ Hard to engage young people
- ◆ Young people living in supported accommodation.
- ◆ Bereavement support for families and professionals.

In April 2019 young person T collapsed and sadly died a few days later. At the time of his death T was the subject of a Child Protection Plan and he was living in supported accommodation. He was the subject of Youth Offending Service supervision and not in education, training or employment. A Rapid Review process was undertaken which established that there was no evidence that abuse or neglect had caused T's death but that there would potentially be multi-agency learning to be gained from a review into his circumstances in the months before he died.

Key Learning Points

Early intervention

- Professionals across the multi-agency network should be aware of and respond to opportunities to intervene earlier.

Conflict and violence in intimate relationships

- Professionals working with families where there is violence between adolescents and adults should have a shared understanding of the basic dynamics which drive intimate violence and access to appropriate interventions.
- Professionals should consider more routine use of DASH assessments as part of initial family assessments where violence is a key concern.
- Effective intervention is needed where there is evidence of conflict and violence in intimate teenager relationships, including coercive control.

Dynamics in contextual safeguarding.

- Professionals working with young people where there may be contextual safeguarding risks need to be aware of peer and community dynamics.
- Extra familial risks need to be considered in all cases, even if the primary area of concern is within the family dynamic.

Work with hard to engage young people.

- Effective intervention can be achieved through the use of a persistent and sustained approach and the building of a purposeful relationship.

Supported accommodation

- Supported accommodation which focuses on the move to independence is not the best place to be trying to undertake family reconciliation work. It is also not currently able to consistently respond to contextual safeguarding concerns around young people going missing.
- Decision making about the use of supported accommodation must be recorded and in line with statutory guidance and the local protocol.

Impact on workers

- Managers at all levels need to use a trauma informed approach in responding to the impact on workers of having a young person they are involved with pass away.

Support for families who have lost a child

- Workers need to be aware of the resources available to support families who have lost a child, such as Cruse Bereaved Parent Support.

YOUR NEXT STEPS

1. Circulate and discuss the issues of this briefing within your team.
2. Review your personal and collective practice in the areas identified.
3. Engage with the forthcoming ERSCP virtual training including Learning from Reviews, Contextual Safeguarding, DASH and Domestic Abuse.
4. Make yourself aware of and respond to future service developments around young people at the edge of care and domestic abuse approaches in those in relation to child to parent violence.