

# Safeguarding Adult Review 7 minute brief Riley



## 1. Section 44 of the Care Act 2014

stipulates that the Safeguarding Adult Board (SAB) has a responsibility to authorise the commissioning of a Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR). A review is required to be undertaken if the Board considers that there is significant learning to be gained across partner agencies.

## 2. Background

Riley was 19 years old when he sadly lost his life to apparent suicide. A resident of Tameside, leaving briefly to live in another county during 2019, returning in 2021. During his childhood he was known to children's social care. Due to signs of worsening mental health and wellbeing from c. 2015, he had been referred to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). Health records indicate Riley had a history of self-harm, overdose and suicidal ideation. Important factors underlying Riley's mental health and wellbeing were post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) along with anxiety, depression and emotional dysregulation. Riley has been described as a very complex young adult, presenting as friendly, bubbly, outgoing, who could be flamboyant. He cross-dressed and was openly gay. Riley could occasionally be aggressive and there was a perception that he was easily influenced by others because he wanted to be accepted.

## 3. Key themes

SAR process identified and analysed 3 themes in detail,

- o Multi-agency co-ordination of care and support
- o Working with adults with multiple vulnerabilities
- o Multi-agency collaborative risk management

## 4. Good Practice

- Practitioners demonstrated empathy and a desire to assist, acknowledging the individual's vulnerability.
- An Early Help professional maintained involvement beyond the age of 18 to aid in achieving stability.
- Despite not receiving direct support after self-referrals, Adult Social Care kept the case open to monitor wellbeing and support inter-agency collaboration.
- Consideration was given to housing options that
- cater to specific needs, including LGBTQ+ specialised housing and residential rehabilitation.
- Some practitioners received recognition for exceptional dedication and service beyond standard expectations.
- Children's social care made efforts to highlight the individual's potential risk of exploitation.
- Service records include checks for suicidal ideation and corresponding safety planning measures.

## 5. Key Learning

- Coordinated multi-agency collaboration with a designated lead professional is crucial for effective risk management.
- Developing a mutual understanding of an individual's history and risk factors is essential for tailored support.
- Practitioners should engage in professional curiosity to enhance their interactions and understanding.
- Acknowledging the role of sexuality in risk assessment is important.
- Providing safe, age-appropriate accommodation is necessary for the well-being of young homeless individuals.
- A seamless transition between children's and adult social care services is vital for young adults with continuous care needs.
- A comprehensive understanding of the Care Act's eligibility and assessment criteria is needed for supporting vulnerable young adults.
- Ongoing efforts are required to establish a consistent, trauma-informed approach within practice.
- Maintaining accurate records of adult contact is a shared responsibility across all practitioners and agencies.

## 6. Recommendations

This is a summary of the recommendations. For more detail read

### **Multi-agency co-ordination of care and support**

- Use of multi-disciplinary team approaches
- Developing a shared understanding of individual context and history

### **Working with adults with multiple vulnerabilities**

- Supporting young adults
- The implications of insecure housing
- Recognising sexuality as a fixed risk
- Trauma, self-harm and suicide risk
- Managing non-engagement

### **Multi-agency collaborative risk management**

- Managing suspected sexual exploitation
- Safeguarding practice
- Risk escalation
- The role of statutory agencies

## 7. Learning Resources

Link to [TASPB SAR for Riley](#)