

7 MINUTE BRIEFING

Serious Case Review “Olivia” and “Yasmine” Safeguarding Adult Review “Carol”

The full SCR reports and Executive summary with key findings and Board response can be found here:
<http://www.lscbhartlepool.org/professionals/page/101>.

The SAR report can be accessed here:
<https://www.tsab.org.uk/2017/06/safeguarding-adults-review-carol/>

Hartlepool LSCB and Teeswide SAB commissioned two child Serious Case Reviews and a Safeguarding Adult Review following the murder of an adult at risk in December 2014 by two Looked After Children aged 13 and 14 years old. Both girls were found guilty of the murder of “Carol” in April 2016 and sentenced to 15 years in custody.

An additional finding in the SCR for “Yasmine” was how to identify ‘fixed thinking’ when working with young people and to challenge information that is received. A shared finding from all three reports is that those who work with adults, children and in community safety services must work more closely to share information about individuals and the community.

“Carol” was an adult at risk who lived a chaotic life. She had a long history of addiction to alcohol and a personality disorder, was well known locally and had frequent contact with workers in the mental health and alcohol services, ambulance and hospital services and the police.

The shared findings in relation to “Olivia” and “Yasmine” revolve around the issues of adolescent neglect, the impact this has on young people and the challenges professionals face in correctly identifying and responding to this complex issue. There is also recognition of the essential role of parents and the dangers that arise when children experience neglect.

“Olivia” and “Yasmine” did not know each other very well until shortly before the murder. Neither had any history of violent offences although they were angry, abusive and hostile to those around them. Both girls experienced abuse and neglect which impacted on their well being and behaviour and resulted in them being taken into care at the age of 12 and 14 years.

The main issues identified in the reviews were the need for closer working together when someone has dual diagnosis of mental illhealth and addiction, confusion between frontline practitioners and commissioners of specialist services, and the need to assess capacity to make decisions especially when this fluctuates in line with the patient’s condition.

