

Safeguarding GP Lead Forum

21st June 2017 - Sunshine House

Child U- Summary

We were joined by Jenny Brennan, Assistant Director, Family, Early Help and Youth Justice who presented and led a discussion about Serious Case Review: Child U, who was a 16 year old boy of Black-African origin killed following a knife attack on 14th September 2015.

Background to the case: Child U spent his childhood in both Sierra Leone and the UK. U was born in the UK, sent back at 3 years old and attended private school. Mother gave birth to daughter whilst he was back in Sierra Leone. U returned to UK aged 10 years. Mother was concerned about risks from drugs, violence and gang culture in the area. U's brother, as a child, had serious behavioural difficulties and was assessed by Children's Social Care (CSC) in 2010, U and sibling were not assessed at time. U's brother was briefly accommodated in 2010.

Serious Case Review covered period of time February 2014 to September 2015. There were many factors found during this time.

- U's brother was serving a 30 month prison sentence for robbery (with a knife).
- U was placed in a nurture group in secondary school in Years 7 - 9 owing to low achievement. U excluded 4 times from secondary school for disruptive behaviour and offered pastoral support and mentoring. March 2014 -U had a 'managed move' between secondary schools (Year 10).
- April 2014-two presentations to St Thomas' hospital for facial injury & knee injury.
- From September 2014 U returned to his new school with 'a recognisably changed attitude'.

During Winter of 2014 U started going missing and came to the notice of police. Educational Psychologist report completed Dec 2014 identified significant needs and he was not able to access the curriculum. Moved to a work based programme 'Building Lives' that lasted one term until he assaulted another pupil, and threatened another with a knife.

Key issues from February 2015

- U's brother released from prison Feb 2015 and was stabbed the same day; and a second time in April 2015. He was returned to prison due to possession of blade and baseball bat. U arrested in June 2015 in connection with an armed robbery of a pizza delivery man and fleeing scene was said to discard 'a long bayonet type hunting knife.' He was bailed to appear at court on 23rd September 2015.
- U went missing for 12 days in July 2015 – on his return home interview stated he had been with friends. On 14th September 2015 U was stabbed and killed.
- After his death mother found a letter stating he stayed away from home due to being afraid of another young man.

SCR Conclusion

'Generally, agencies worked in 'silos'. The cumulative effect was that, as U's behaviour deteriorated in school and at home, as well as out in the community, there was no single agency or professional who was in a position to assess how this all fitted together and what it meant in terms of his risk of harm.'