

The following is a statement from Martyn's mother about the circumstances which led to a Safeguarding Adult Review. The views and opinions expressed in this statement are those of the Family and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Keeping Bristol Safe Partnership or the agencies involved. Their views are reflected in the Safeguarding Adults Review report and Learning Briefing.

Martyn's Family Contribution

Martyn's early years were difficult both for him and the family. He had lots of professional help and eventually a diagnosis was given. He went to mainstream school and coped fairly well until key stage 2. He then went to a special school, but even though they were specialised in working with children with various needs, Martyn was permanently excluded. He went for a year without full time education, although he attended hospital school for a couple of hours a week. He then went on to attend residential schools and colleges, coming home some weekends and all school holidays.

Martyn had a lot of professional input during his early and teenage years, but not so much after he left college and returned to his home city and started to live independently. He found the transition quite difficult and lonely, especially as he was used to lots of staff and peers living with him in a residential setting.

I do not think Martyn was placed in the most appropriate living environment when he returned to his home city, and because of his social interactions with neighbours he had quite a difficult time. He was disappointed with his support because he thought (and myself) that the staff were going to accompany him to social places such as to play pool, visit the cinema, coffee shops and go swimming, but the hours allocated were never long enough or there were different staff who then needed to get to know Martyn better.

Martyn enjoyed stewarding at various events and he really felt as though he was partaking in working for the community. He also fostered cats for a local charity. He was very good at looking after the cats and working with the new adoptive owners.

Martyn was a fun, loving and kind person who was thought highly of by many people. Unfortunately, Martyn trusted far too many people who took advantage of his kindness. He only saw the good in them and wanted to help them to his detriment.

Martyn was very capable of keeping himself and his home clean and tidy. It was the social aspects of his life he could not get right, especially when it came to making the right choice in choosing some, not all, of his friends. He would drink too much whilst in their company and problems would arise. He was not dependant on alcohol – he just drank when with his friends. It was also a problem that it did not take much alcohol to get him drunk.

I feel support should have been given to him to try to find suitable activities in the community to keep him busy and make him feel that he was contributing to society. Some professionals who had dealings with Martyn in the past, such as the police and some nursing staff, treated Martyn as a rude difficult lad without realising he was unable to deal with some social situations.

I think on reflection Martyn would probably have benefitted living in a small supported unit.

Even though the abuse Martyn suffered in the hours before his death have not been found to be the cause of his death, I strongly believe if he had not been at that place with those four people that night he would still be alive. My family and I have found it difficult to accept the sentences given to these individuals.

Martyn's passing has left a huge void in my life. His brother and sisters, and myself, have been greatly affected by his death particularly by the abuse he experienced in the hours leading to his passing. He is missed and loved so much and makes us very sad that he is not still able to be part of our lives.

Martyn's mother
January 2021