KEEPING BRISTOL SAFE PARTNERSHIP

CHILDREN ADULTS COMMUNITIES

Rapid Review Learning Briefing

Rapid Review No.7

Safeguarding leads across the partnership reviewed case files held for the young person

A rapid review learning event took place in August 2020

Professionals from 11 teams/ organisations took part in the review

The Young Person

The young person was 15-years-old at the time of the incident and male. He experienced two serious assaults in a 10 month period. He received a head injury from the first assault, the full extent of the injury was not understood at the time. In the second assault, the young person received multiple stab wounds but thankfully survived their injuries. The cumulative effect of the two incidents was analysed in this review.

The Peer Groups

Professionals in Bristol have had ongoing concerns about the relationship between two peer groups of young people in the city. Over the last few years, there have been multiple concerns about violence and retaliation between these groups which has resulted in young people being hurt by knives. The young person in this rapid review was known to be associated with these peer groups.

Learning Points

Need for strategy meeting and CP conference

On reflection, the professionals acknowledged that the first serious assault should have triggered a strategy meeting and a child protection conference should have followed. The cumulative impact of the injuries on the young person's wellbeing, education was not initially recognised or managed effectively. It was noted that the decision was not challenged or escalated by professionals.

Individual assessments alongside contextual approaches

The group of professionals had a good understanding of the peer group dynamics and the potential harm associated within the groups. However, this was not being reflected in case work with individual young people across different services. Non-statutory agencies had both a good relationship with the young person and a good understanding of the peer networks. This could have been better utilised to inform multi-agency and multi-disciplinary planning and review.

Long term planning

This young person had intervention from social care for a period of time, however, it was agreed that a longer-term Child in Need or a young person's safety planning approach would have been a more effective intervention. This would have allowed for the necessary multi-disciplinary and multi-agency assessments, planning, and interventions to take place. This would have ensured a more sustained and dynamic approach to reduce the risk of harm.

Lead professional role when Social Care no longer involved

In the absence of statutory oversight of this case, there remained a clear need for there to be a lead professional that co-ordinated work and reviewed progress. There was evidently a significant amount of intervention in place across several agencies. This was noted by the young person as 'being too much'. There was, however, minimal evidence of review of what was working, what was making a difference and what else might have been an option.

Takeaways

Statutory services are reminded to consult with voluntary agencies where appropriate, so that the full contextual approach to peer groups is understood.

Strategy discussions should be initiated when a child experiences serious harm, in particular adolescents experiencing peer-on-peer abuse.

When there is no statutory role in young person's life, a lead professional role is still necessary. Professionals should use the KBSP Lead Practitioner Protocol

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