

South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership
 Child Safeguarding Practice Review
 Children Exposed to Serious Youth Violence
 August 2024

The Children's Partnership commissioned Nicki Pettitt, an independent reviewer to lead this CSPR



Professionals from all of the involved agencies across 3 local authorities and Child T's family took part in the review

Access Modern Slavery training by clicking here

Theme: National Referral Mechanism (NRM)

- An NRM is used when there may be criminal exploitation/trafficking.
- A referral was made in respect of Child T in 2021 – which is expected practice for a child known to have carried a weapon
- This was a missed opportunity to provide focussed support and should have been coordinated with the professionals who Child T knew
- Anecdotal findings suggest take up of Modern Slavery training which includes NRM is poor.

Child T

The South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership agreed to undertake a Child Safeguarding Practice Review (CSPR) to consider practice and systems when there are reasons to be concerned for a child due to their involvement in or exposure to serious youth violence (SYV). The decision to undertake this CSPR was because of the 2023 death from a stab wound of a child named Child T*. This review has also considered the available learning about the out of area children who have been convicted for killing Child T.

*anonymised for publication

Theme: Risk of SYV

- It is not only children with adverse childhood experiences who are at risk of involvement in SYV
- Child T came from a loving family home which gave professionals reassurance
- For Child T there were still indicators of risk even though he appeared to be doing well and there were no significant recent concerns
- Child T talked about the impact of living in certain postcode areas and becoming involved in SYV
- ADHD and anxiety were both factors for Child T

1. The Partnership to ensure that a local critical incident plan is developed, with other partnerships in Avon and Somerset, using this case to inform its development.
2. That the National CSPR Panel requests that the correct government department/s consider the need for a national standard operational procedure for responding to a critical incident.
3. The partnership to request that the current status and terminology of MARM is changed to Child Protection Plan – Risk Outside of the Home (CP-ROTH)
4. That assurance is provided to the Partnership about the outcome of the PIMM review, as part of the wider independent review of the Risk Management Pathway
5. The Partnership to request that partner agencies consider how they will support staff to ensure that child victims of exploitation are prevented from being 'criminalised'.
6. That the partnership seek assurance in respect of the development of the work of the Violence Reduction Partnership (VRP) in South Gloucestershire and the wider Avon and Somerset VRP in respect of their response of serious youth violence. This should include:
 - Consideration given to how information on specific children, including investigations, intelligence, locations, and perpetrators is shared regularly across the five Avon and Somerset areas.
 - Consideration given by the Pan Avon and Somerset Needs Assessment for SYV to the importance of working with and sharing information with areas outside of Avon and Somerset, including Wiltshire.
 - Consideration of the impact of the Online Safety Bill 2023 across the system.

Theme: Drill Music

- Child T was emerging as a popular drill artist on YouTube
- It can increase the risk of becoming target of violence due to the nature of the threats in the music.
- Professionals need to be aware of the content of drill music for those involved when making their assessments.

Theme: Extra Familial Harm

- There has been a shift, locally and nationally, for children at risk of exploitation to have focus on risks outside the home
- A system that focusses only on risks outside the home is vulnerable and it is vital to also consider risk within homes

Evidence of Good Practice

- Exploitation Identification tool had been regularly updated
- PIMM has consistent and committed membership who work well together and share information effectively
- Child T's school worked well with him and his attendance increased dramatically – he was settled and took some GCSEs there although this should have been a short stay provision.
- There was good support planning for Child T's future he met the careers advisor around 20 times

ADHD, school exclusions and exploitation are linked themes that have been highlighted repeatedly locally

Bitesize Exploitation sessions cover PIMM, MARM and South Glos processes – click here to book a free place

System wide issue that there is a lack of understanding that a MARM is equivalent to a Child Protection

There is an identified need for a clear and effective serious incident response across Avon & Somerset which can be used out of hours

You can read the full CSPR by clicking here

