

South Gloucestershire Children's Partnership  
Reflective Learning Event  
April 2021  
Harry

**Who is Harry?**

Harry is a 15 year old boy who was involved in a knife crime incident. He received stab wounds. His injuries were serious but not life changing. There is a regional thematic knife crime CSPR taking place across the region and Harry is part of that.

**Theme One: Domestic Abuse**

**Headline learning – professionals to understand the long term impact of having witnessed DVA, and continues post separation and sometimes get worse**

**What did we learn?**

The impact of witnessing domestic abuse for a child continues long after the incident is over, or the adults have separated and the abuse has ended.

**What should we do differently?**

- Work in a trauma informed way
- Look for reasons behind behaviour rather than just responding to what is happening
- Click anywhere in this box to find training about working with trauma

The Children's Partnership held a reflective learning event on 28<sup>th</sup> April 2021 facilitated by independent reviewer Nicki Pettitt.



Professionals from 9 different agencies took part in the review

**Theme Two: Working Together**

**What did we learn?**

- We saw practitioners/organisations work in silos
- We saw professionals who held onto information that should have been shared

**What should we do differently?**

- Make use of multi agency meetings and multi agency chronology writing
- See children as part of a community as well as a family, assess in a more holistic way
- When you are not sure, and information doesn't seem to fit or there is ambiguity – get together to talk through what is happening.

**Headline Learning: If a child has a significant long term professional in their life it makes a difference.**

**If there is an overdose of a prescription medication, emergency services/hospital A&E departments should always inform the prescriber, alongside other safeguarding referrals.**

System review needed about how referrals are recorded about children who already have a young person support worker or social worker to ensure that key information is not missed

**Impact of Domestic Abuse – what did practitioners see?**

- Behaviours that would lead to being isolated at school, wanting to be isolated
- Vulnerable to exploitation - risk identified/ family disclosure but not shared
- Concerns about gangs
- Anxiety, soiling, hyperactivity
- Violent outbursts, history of physical and emotional abuse
- Suicide attempt
- Cannabis use from age 13
- ADHD
- Memory and vocabulary difficulties

A shared understanding of the whole picture would have helped to support Harry and his family effectively – work together with other professionals to see the whole picture

Agencies should 'flag' records when there has been a strategy or Section 47 enquiry

Click here for Domestic Abuse Training

Click here for Exploitation Training

**Evidence of Good Practice**

- School – flexible and supportive – bespoke education package is outstanding and did not PEX (permanently exclude) despite having grounds to
- CAMHS response in hospital after an overdose – asked for their referral to be looked at under a contextual safeguarding lens
- Mentoring has been really significant and identifying Harry's younger sibling for mentoring is good practice as early intervention
- Extended involvement of FYPS for Harry & his family
- Trauma informed outreach approach has been used by professionals

**What is happening Now?**  
There is a Thematic Knife Crime Review underway in the region. This will gather the voice of children, families and practitioners.

Have exploitation in mind when working with young people – don't dismiss it.

Be a curious practitioner

Domestic Abuse continues post separation and sometimes gets worse

Have an open mind, think the unthinkable

