

## Background

Thomas is a nine year old boy diagnosed with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder when he was six by a community paediatrician. Both children's social care and school have supported the family in times of crisis since then. Thomas has been assaulting his mother and his brother on a regular basis over recent months.



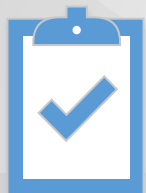
## Incident

Police were called to Thomas's home address where he had assaulted his mother and was threatening to self-harm. After consultation with other agencies the Police Officers detained him under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act. Due to a lack of capacity at Bristol's place of safety Thomas was taken to Swindon's place of safety.



## What Worked Well?

- Excellent Support from School for parents and to all agencies
- Excellent communication between South Glos EDT & Swindon EDS allowing effective information sharing
- Good practice attempts to engage father
- Positive use of police at an early stage
- Thomas was assessed very quickly in Swindon
- Completion of the assessment in Swindon rather than transfer him back to Bristol was a child centred decision
- Police officers were very professional and tried every option before 136



## Update

- ✓ Training for Social Work Team Managers re CAMHS referral processes May 17
- ✓ Additional training for GPs and Social workers about pathways for mental health and information needed in a CAMHS referral Feb 17
- ✓ Link to Resolution of Professional Differences Policy is provided with this Briefing (overleaf)
- ✓ System Wide S136 review has demonstrated there are an adequate number of places for the population. In peak time, children are given priority. Chair's representation not required.
- ✓ Cross Boundary Agreement picked up the CYP 136 group, operating procedure is in place
- ✓ Good work report has been completed



## Recommendations

# Learning Brief Thomas Age 9



## Concerns

- Pathway for referral to CAMHS to be clearer – so professionals know who will refer – if child is known to Social Care, they will lead on referring
- Better understanding for professionals about information needed in a referral to CAMHS
- Better understanding of pathways available to parents and professionals in relation to mental health support
- All agencies involved with a child should consider convening a multi agency meeting at the earliest opportunity (TAC, CinN, Core Group, LAC meeting)
- Improved knowledge needed about the policy 'Resolution of Professional Differences' especially for schools
- SGSCB Chair will make representation to the CCG about the lack of local bed space
- Police providing advice about a young person's behaviour should only be used as a temporary measure in liaison with the lead professional for the child.
- Consider a cross boundary agreement when a child is taken to a bed outside home local authority so that the assessment takes place there, rather than the child being moved
- Good work report for the police who dealt with Thomas

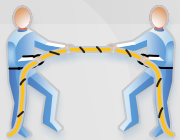
- Difficult to get an appointment with CAMHS
- GP who made referral to CAMHS had never met Thomas and referral was lacking in detail
- No multi agency meeting was held
- Child Protection procedures were not followed when appropriate
- Lack of holistic assessment
- No integrated Health team for Thomas either pre or post 136
- Resolution of Professional Differences policy not used to escalate problems
- Lack of local bed space for Thomas when 136 was taken out





Glossary  
Of  
Terms

- EDT: Emergency Duty Team
- EDS: Emergency Duty Service
- CAMHS: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
- GP: General Practitioner
- TAC: Team around the Child
- CinN: Child in Need
- LAC: Looked After Child
- CYP: Children and Young People



## Resolution of Professional Differences Policy

This policy can be found on the South Gloucestershire Safeguarding Children Board Website

<http://sites.southglos.gov.uk/safeguarding/>

Or by clicking here