

1

Circumstances

Steven was murdered in an altercation where a knife was used. It was considered that this incident should be treated as an Offensive Weapon Homicide (OWH) as the deceased was aged over 18 years and that his death was caused by an offensive weapon, namely a knife. Cwm Taf Morgannwg Safeguarding Board were approached by Welsh Government to pilot this review under the Single Unified Safeguarding Review (SUSR) process whilst also being guided by the Offensive Weapons Homicide Review (OHWR) Draft Statutory Guidance. Both the Cwm Taf CSP, and the CTMSB were fully supportive of piloting this case under this methodology, with the aim to improve engagement with families and bring learning from reviews into action in the most effective way.



SUSR-2024-06 CTM

"STEVEN"

2

Case Background

This case is about Steven, but includes P1, P2, P3, P4, P5 & P6. Steven moved to Wales to study as a mature student. He resided in a multi occupancy house whilst studying at the University. On a Sunday evening in December 23 following a call to emergency services that a male was not breathing or conscious and had possibly been murdered. The phone call came from another resident at the premises where Steven resided. Police officers attended and Steven was observed to have multiple stab wounds in his thigh area, which caused significant bleeding. Steven lost his life because of the amount of blood loss. The circumstances appear to be that Steven had a drugs debt and it is believed that P1, accompanied by P2 and P3, went to the address to collect a drugs debt and became embroiled in the incident. P4, P5, and P6 became involved following the incident when they assisted in making arrangements to transport P1 who had sustained injuries to hospital for medical treatment. Six subjects of interest were arrested and charged in some capacity with the incident.

7

Continued

- CTM Health Board and USW to collaborate to enhance understanding of professionals to best support individuals' presenting with ADHD symptoms with an intention of achieving a timely diagnosis and reducing maladaptive behaviours. This will upskill staff in this area allowing a better response and understanding to individuals and ensuring better informed intervention and support.
- The Wales Safeguarding Procedure Board should develop a practice guide to cover all forms of adult exploitation. This will support the statutory guidance for the safeguarding of adults for adoption by each of the safeguarding boards.
- CTMHB to work with the University to ensure they have resources that support and educate students who may use cannabis to raise awareness of the impact use can have on mental health.



3

Family History and/or Contextual Information

Steven was from a respectable and supportive family, a mother & stepfather, a father & stepmother, and a sister. He was also a father to four children. Steven's parents were aware of his struggles throughout the years. They supported and helped him as best they could to access the help that he needed. Steven's family have spoken very fondly of their son, highlighting his strengths and character as an individual, whilst also acknowledging the problems with which he was faced.

Steven's family have engaged throughout the review and have been updated at key stages of the process, this has included face to face meetings. They fully embraced the review and expressed that they are committed to doing whatever they can to support other people in a similar position to their son.

6

Continued

- USW and Student Union should continue to review and evaluate current methods of monitoring risk and the potential for criminality and the illegal supply of drugs on the premises. This will ensure that all methods are robust and mitigate further the risk of criminality and the illegal supply of drugs to students who may be feeling vulnerable.
- Social Housing should review and refresh training for all front-line staff, to ensure they are aware of processes and procedures to highlight property concerns and recognise potential signs that make tenants vulnerable to and/or at risk of exploitation and or cuckooing.
- Social Housing should conduct a review and audit on property checks and maintenance checks to ensure that they are robust and regular to highlight these concerns.

5

Continued

- SWP must satisfy the Regional Safeguarding Board that current legislation around section 28 The Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Act 1999, as well as witness protection which was introduced to protect vulnerable and intimidated witnesses and victims of violent crime is being consistently used. In addition, there is a need to establish the barriers for non-engagement to identify if the current protection measures in place provide sufficient reassurance to allow fearful and intimidated witnesses to want to engage in investigations.
- Consideration should be given to the VPU expanding the Hospital Navigator Scheme in the local ED Department to support individual victims of serious injury and provide rapid intervention.
- USW to continue to work with Health, including local GPs and Police to increase awareness and improve engagement with available resources and support for students.

4

Improving Systems & Practice

- CTM Safeguarding Board and Community Safety Partnership must strengthen the multi-agency response to serious violence and exploitation in the Region. This should be done by:
 - A contextual safeguarding approach
 - An understanding of the prevalence of the issues within the region, and
 - A strategic platform.

Creating a coordinated and evidenced based approach to violence reduction, whilst preventing and protecting individuals and communities from serious violence and exploitation with a key focus on pursuing and disrupting offenders.