



Ref no: BSCP 2022-23-02

Issued: 12th June 2024

Publication of learning from a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review

Date: 12th June 2024

Details: Serious Youth Violence – Breaking the Cycle

Every life lost to serious youth violence is one too many, whether that be a son, brother, relative or close friend. We also recognise the impact on families of perpetrators' when they are incarcerated, their life-paths also changed for ever. Today we have published a Local Child Safeguarding Practice Review entitled 'Breaking the Cycle' following the tragic death of a 16-year-old boy who was fatally stabbed in 2022. The Review explores how agencies worked with the young victim and his family, but also the young person convicted of his homicide. The Review identifies important systemic learning, together with several areas where we can strengthen partnership working and practice. It reinforces the importance of collaborative working to address serious youth violence and builds on earlier work that has been undertaken in the city to embed learning from Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews, and the National Review 'It was hard to escape' published in 2020.

The review also includes analysis of three other similar incidents of serious youth violence in Birmingham over the last two years, which had tragic consequences. A number of common features emerge about the boys' childhood, lived experience and circumstances identifying important further learning for practitioners who work with young people in this very challenging area of multi-agency practice.

The Review makes four key recommendations endorsed by Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership and Birmingham Community Safety Partnerships which has led to action being taken to embed the learning. Whilst the Review recognises the commitment of agencies within the city to tackle criminal exploitation and serious youth violence, it highlights the need for continued further work to strengthen our approach to the prevention of, and response to, these serious issues within our city.

The Review also focuses on the importance of practitioners' understanding the importance of 'place' to a child growing-up in our city and the key influences on their lives especially the impact of early childhood trauma. It reinforces the need for practitioners to be able to recognise and act on 'reachable moments', which are key opportunities to divert young people from their involvement with gangs and youth violence.

We offer our deepest sympathy to all the families affected by these tragic events. We would like to provide assurance that Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership and the Birmingham Community Safety Partnership will continue to work in close collaboration to embed the learning from this review and implement the City's long term



BIRMINGHAM
**Safeguarding
Children**
PARTNERSHIP

Serious Violence Strategy 2024/34.

Penny Thompson CBE
Independent Chair
Birmingham Safeguarding Children Partnership

Councillor Nicky Brennan
Chair
Birmingham Community Safety Partnership

Note to editors

The purpose of an LCSPR is to establish whether any lessons can be learnt by professional services to help ensure children are better protected in future.

The LCSPR is published on the Partnership's website (<https://lscpbirmingham.org.uk>). A copy can be downloaded from the table on the webpage (Case Reference BSCP2022-23/02). A copy has been forwarded to the National Case Review Repository hosted by the NSPCC.

If you are concerned about a child living in Birmingham, please ring Birmingham Children's Trust's Children's Advice and Support Service on 0121 303 1888.

For any media enquiries or interview requests please contact Lawrence Vos,
Communications Manager 07470 081457
Email: lawrence.vos@birminghamchildrenstrust.co.uk Website: www.lscpbirmingham.org.uk