



Board publishes review into death of vulnerable adult

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Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board has today (Friday 1 March) published the findings of a Safeguarding Adult Review (SAR) into the death of a 39-year-old man.

The man, referred to in the review as Adult C, lived with severe epilepsy and mental ill health for many years and took his own life in 2017. Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board commissioned the SAR to ascertain the involvement of agencies with Adult C in the lead up to his death, and determine if anything could be learned which may improve frontline practice in the future.

The SAR identified learning points and made eight multi-agency recommendations to Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board, primarily around identifying needs, the sharing of information and how agencies respond to instances of crisis.

Linda Sanders, Independent Chair of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board, said: "This was a very sad case, and on behalf of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board I would like to extend my condolences to the gentleman's family and friends.

"Adult C had struggled for many years with a range of physical and mental health needs, and felt he was unable to cope at home on his own when his partner, who helped care for him, was admitted to hospital. Ultimately, and tragically, this led to him taking his own life.

"The review looked in forensic detail at the involvement of seven agencies with Adult C in the months, weeks and days before his death. It identified a number of areas where professionals demonstrated good practice, and also reviewed their actions to see whether there was anything which they could have done differently.

"The report makes it clear that, sadly, there was little that could have been done to prevent Adult C from taking his own life. However, it also identifies learning and recommends eight action points which are being implemented by Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board and the individual agencies concerned.

“These actions are primarily around ensuring a coordinated response to crisis situations such as the one facing Adult C, and that the needs of individuals are shared between and understood by everyone supporting them.”

Agencies involved in the SAR included the Black Country Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, West Midlands Ambulance Service, West Midlands Police, the City of Wolverhampton Council, Wolverhampton Homes and Adult C’s GP.

Samaritans provides confidential emotional support for people who are experiencing feelings of distress or despair, including those which could lead to suicide, with a helpline available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Call Samaritans free on 116 123, visit www.samaritans.org or email jo@samaritans.org.

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Note to editors:

1/ A Safeguarding Adult Review is a multi-agency review process which seeks to establish the circumstances around an individual's death and determine what relevant agencies and individuals involved could have done differently that could have prevented harm or a death from taking place. The purpose of a SAR is not to apportion blame; it is to promote effective learning and improvement to prevent future deaths or serious harm occurring again.

2/ Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board provides strategic leadership for adult safeguarding work to ensure there is a consistently high standard of professional response to situations where there is actual or suspected harm. For more information, please visit www.wolverhamptonsafeguarding.org.uk/safeguarding-adults/safeguarding-adults-board.