



WOLVERHAMPTON SAFEGUARDING TOGETHER

Safeguarding Adult Review published

Released: Friday 11 October, 2024

A Learning Lessons Briefing has today (Friday 11 October, 2024) been published by Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together to share key findings from a recent Safeguarding Adults Review (SAR).

The review was commissioned by Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together to examine the experiences of a young woman, referred to in the review as 'Beth', who passed away at the age of 22.

Beth faced complex trauma and adversity throughout her childhood and adolescence. She had been the victim of child sexual abuse, which impacted her mental health and wellbeing and cumulated in her being sectioned for three years. She was also further exploited in adulthood and would often self-medicate, resorting to the use of illicit substances to manage her trauma.

Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together commissioned a Safeguarding Adult Review to look at how agencies had interacted with and supported Beth.

In it, independent author Nikki Holmes concluded: "Beth's life was tragic and short. But it is hoped that this report means that her lived experience will drive learning and systemic development that will aid practitioners to better support young women like her, who have been subjected to complex adversity and trauma.

"As the report author I would like to acknowledge Beth for her bravery, candour and the impact that she has had during her short life. Impact that she will not ever know she has had."

The report makes a total of 14 recommendations to improve future practice and also recommends that Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together and key partners consider joining The Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health to support with effective prevention planning arrangements locally.

In response, Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together has developed an action plan and agencies have already started work to address the recommendations and provide assurance.

Alison Hinds, Chair of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Executive Board, said: "Beth was a promising young sports woman, a hard worker, and someone that made friends easily, and her death leaves a great void for all that knew her.

"The Safeguarding Adult Review which we commissioned seeks to ensure that lessons are learned and action is taken to address the learning that has been highlighted, and we will ensure that partners continue the work which is already being undertaken through the action plan to deliver the improvements which are needed.

"Our condolences go to Beth's family and friends, along with our commitment to ensure lessons are learnt from her tragic loss."

The Learning Lessons Briefing has been published on the Wolverhampton Safeguarding Adults Board website. For more information, please visit www.wolverhamptionsafeguarding.org.uk.

ENDS

Notes 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/ Section 44 of the Care Act 2014 requires a SAR to be carried out "where an adult with care and support needs (whether or not those needs are met by the local authority) in the Safeguarding Adult Board's area has died as a result of abuse or neglect, whether known or suspected, and there is concern that partner agencies could have worked together more effectively to protect the adult".

3/ Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together Board provides strategic leadership for 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.wolverhamptionsafeguarding.org.uk.

4/ For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Paul Brown, Communications Manager, on 01902 555497 or email paul.brown@wolverhampton.gov.uk.

- **Issued by the City of Wolverhampton Council's Corporate Communications Team on behalf of Wolverhampton Safeguarding Together.**