

7. Learning Opportunities

Reflect on this case and use as example of Modern Slavery training, impact of advocacy and the importance of transition services.

Apply transition planning to care and support needs of adults and fully recognise the limitations of commissioned services.

All safeguarding referrals should follow the procedures to ensure adults are seen by professionals undertaking safeguarding assessment. This should happen despite whether referring agencies have recently seen/spoken to the adult at risk.

Safeguarding processes should not rely on single agency assessment and consultations should always take place with partners. The use of Advocacy should be embedded into all safeguarding practice.

6. Modern Slavery

When spoken to A, he expressed he was ok when not. Due to the nature of an individual vulnerability, to exploitation, victims will not always recognise themselves as victims of abuse. It is therefore up to professionals to recognise vulnerabilities to exploitation and the possibility of modern slavery. At the time, training was still being rolled out across services and professionals accepted that interpretations of what Modern Slavery looked like were narrower than considered now.

5. Use of Advocacy

No advocacy was offered to A at any point.

A was a young man who had previously been supported by children's services and had a diagnosis of ADHD and ASD which we know to have lifelong needs. He asked to come into LA care but instead spent the last months of his childhood staying with a friend.

When A became homeless as an adult, he accepted a service that was unable to meet his needs. Advocacy and support from the transition team would have identified his care and support needs, provided him with a voice and assisted in securing a more appropriate place to live.

The Wales Safeguarding Procedures would have supported access to advocacy in order to ascertain Adult A's views and wishes.

1. Background

A Concise Adult Practice Review was undertaken on the recommendation of the Practice Review Management Group (PRMG) of the West Glamorgan Safeguarding Adults Board (WGSAB) in accordance with Part 7 of the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014 and the underpinning Practice Guidance for Multi-Agency Adult Practice Reviews.

The subject of the review is 22 year old male, he had a diagnosis of ADHD and ASD. He had a history of challenging behaviour and could be aggressive. He had previously experienced a period of being looked after by the local authority, he became homeless and then became subject to modern slavery.

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2. Context

On the 30th January, 2019, the police attended a property in the South Wales area following information that Adult A had been residing at the address and was potentially subject to slavery and a series of assaults. On attendance the police discovered that Adult A had swelling to the face and head with other cuts and grazes, some recent and some historic. It was also noted that his clothes were ill fitting, the caravan he was residing in was in a poor state of repair and appeared under-nourished

Whilst initially stating that he was fine and not making any allegations against others it became apparent that the occupiers of the property had been mistreating Adult A, and effectively had caused him to reside at a caravan, within the confines of their land as a slave. He was clearly in fear of the suspects.

On the 1st February, 2019, the suspects were both charged with Modern Slavery offences and a series of assaults on Adult A. Both suspects charged with the offences have subsequently been convicted and are serving significant custodial sentences.

3. Key Learning Themes

- **Transition**
- **Expectations of commissioned services**
- **Safeguarding Adults**
- **Advocacy**
- **Modern Slavery**

A had previously been a looked after child. It is evident that transition planning from Children Services to Adult Services did not occur. His voice was lost, there was a missed opportunity to plan for adulthood and no thought to contingency

4. Safeguarding Adults

The review identified a number of instances during the timeline when opportunities were missed, or referrals were made but not followed through.

Capacity Assessments could have been requested through the Safeguarding Process to fully assess Adult A's level of understanding of his current situation.

Despite referrals being made to safeguarding there was an overreliance on initial views of the police which led to missed opportunities and further harm. Social services staff did not see A as part of their initial assessment when responding to the safeguarding referral made by police. Police responded to concerns raised about A's welfare by visiting on three separate occasions in 2017. On the third occasions concerns around Modern Slavery were identified, this was missed on the previous two reports and viewing Adult A's situation.

Homelessness services were commissioned to support A when he presented as an adult however wider service provision had previously been decommissioned leaving professionals expecting more from services than available.

A was referred to a homeless service which was not able to meet his needs. A did not understand his responsibilities and what was expected of him in order to maintain his accommodation, he described that he was keen to have somewhere to live but didn't understand the contract he had signed.