



7 Minute Briefing

SAFEGUARDING ADULT REVIEW TYRONE GOODYEAR

THE ADULT

Tyrone Goodyear was a very gentle 24-year-old man who had a strong religious faith and loved animals. He worked at the bakery in Tesco's, often in the early hours of the morning, and had ambitions to be a 'Manga' artist (Japanese comic books). Mr Goodyear had a strong sense of what was right and what was wrong and distanced himself from acquaintances whose behaviour he disliked, and therefore had few close friends.



BACKGROUND TO THE REVIEW

Mr Goodyear had been in irregular contact with mental health services since he was 15 years old and had been assessed to have Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), learning difficulties and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder (OCD). Mr Goodyear was known to have tried to kill himself once before.

Mr Goodyear lived with his mother and five of his siblings in four-bedroom temporary accommodation. This was causing friction between the family members. Mr Goodyear's mother wanted the family to be rehoused. When Mr Goodyear overheard that this would not happen his behaviour changed and in December 2018 he left the family home to stay in hotels around London.

WHAT HAPPENED

Mr Goodyear left home and his mother reported him missing, but he was soon found by police, who were not concerned about him. He then stayed in hotels in different parts of London but maintained contact with his mother. They approached the Council for housing for Mr Goodyear and were told that it might be available in four to six weeks' time.

Mr Goodyear and his mother were also in contact with mental health services and with Mr Goodyear's General Practitioner (GP). There were concerns that Mr Goodyear might harm other people. A mental health assessment conducted on 18th January 2019 concluded that Mr Goodyear was not at risk of harm to himself and/or others. Mr Goodyear was offered further mental health support but since he was moving between hotels in different parts of London this support was not provided.

Mr Goodyear was found dead in a hotel room in Enfield on 21st February 2019. He had taken his own life via an overdose.

Housing, mental health services and the GP had tried to work together but this was not coordinated and there was a lack of knowledge about how each agency operated.



KEY LEARNING



People with Autism Spectrum Condition are more likely to commit suicide than the general population, and the factors that predict this can also be different from the general population.

People with Autism Spectrum Conditions may "camouflage" their needs in order to fit in. They may not be accessing any services but this does not mean that they do not have unmet needs.



QUESTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER

How much do you know about the eligibility criteria for the different agencies that you work with, for example, mental health services, housing or the criteria for Care Act assessments?

How accessible are your services for someone living with Autism Spectrum Condition?

How aware are you of how to help someone with an Autism Spectrum Condition to access your service?

How is the national housing crisis impacting upon your ability to meet people's needs?

What steps do you take to help people to understand the information you provide? (This is part of Making Safeguarding Personal - MSP).



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT A REOCCURRENCE

Make sure that people understand the information you provide. Do not assume adults have the mental capacity to do this.

If you are concerned about how someone is coping, then consider making a referral to Adult Social Care.

Consider raising a Safeguarding Concern (preferably with consent) in relation to the adult, even if you think the person and the situation does not meet the legal duty under safeguarding. Non-statutory enquiries can still be conducted.

Work with the adult at risk's family and remember to offer a carer's assessment if this is applicable.

Don't believe that the most obvious problem that someone brings to you is the only one.

Be persistent and flexible when working with people who you are concerned about, or who are harder to reach (seldom heard).

