

Adult R 'Marie' Multi Agency Review – Briefing

The Background

Marie lived alone and she received daily support from social support and care agencies. Marie had complex needs; she had learning disabilities and a mental health diagnosis. As a result, she was well known to many services. At various times during the period under review her case was managed by an Adult Social Care Learning Disability team, Community Mental Health and Acute Mental Health Teams as well as contact with the hospital and primary care

Whilst in receipt of services for her learning disabilities and mental health, Marie stabbed a member of the public. Subsequently the case was referred in to Southampton Local Safeguarding Adults Board (LSAB) who considered whether the threshold for a Safeguarding Adults Review was met.

Safeguarding Concerns

Marie's care workers were becoming increasingly concerned about her mental health. Marie was known to both the Mental Health services and Adult Social Care Learning Disability services and, from time to time, she was considered by each service as the responsibility of the other. She was, effectively, caught between services with no single plan to help her manage her escalating distress and clearly expressed concerns she would stab someone. Too much optimism was put on the fact that she had yet to act out any of these urges and that her coping mechanisms would be sufficient to manage them.

The Incident

A member of the public was walking in Southampton and was stabbed by Marie. The victim received assistance from a member of the public who, seeing she had been stabbed, called 999. A police officer attended and found Marie nearby. Marie was subsequently charged with attempted murder and possession of a knife. She later admitted the offences at Crown Court and was given a hospital order under the Mental Health Act 1983.

The Review

In Marie's case it was determined that the Statutory Criteria for Safeguarding Adult Review (Section 44, Care Act 2014) was not met but that significant learning may be gained from carrying out a multi-agency review. The review was to establish the circumstances, agency involvement and events leading up to the incident and whether there are any lessons to be learned by the way agencies worked individually or together that might reduce the likelihood of a similar event happening again. Marie was visited by the lead reviewer and her Social Worker to engage in a conversation regarding her experiences.

The Findings

- This potentially very serious attempt on a member of the public's life has highlighted a system which appears to be fragmented. This was a significant challenge to providing Marie with the support she needed.
- Marie, her carers and GP made many attempts to bring her deteriorating mental health and their escalating concerns to the attention of mental health and learning disabilities services. These concerns were not heard and services dismissed them on the grounds that she had never before carried out her threats and her distraction techniques would help her.
- The full recommendations of this review should be adopted to ensure that all services join up effectively, develop a culture of multi-agency risk and care management and hear the voices of clients and carers rather than just relying on previous history and service thresholds.

Useful links for good practice

- [4LSAB Safeguarding Adults Multiagency Guidance, Policy and Toolkit](#)
- [4LSAB Risk Management Framework](#)
- [Guide to Mental Health Services in Southampton](#)
- [Guide to Care Programme Approach](#)
- [Green Light Toolkit - A guide to auditing and improving your mental health service so that it is effective in supporting people with autism and people with learning disabilities.](#)
- [NICE Guidance - Challenging behaviour and learning disabilities: prevention and interventions for people with learning disabilities whose behaviour challenges](#)
- [NICE Guidance - Mental health problems in people with learning disabilities: prevention, assessment and management](#)
- [Southampton LSAB website](#)