

# Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnership

## SPR/Learning Review – Carl and Max

### 1 Critical Events

Carl was 16 when he was fatally stabbed. A young person was convicted of his murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

At the time he and his family were in receipt of services from various local children's agencies.

He and his brother were subjects of a Child Protection Plan.

### 2 Key information and Safeguarding Concerns

- Homelessness, multiple evictions, unsuitable housing
- Family moved from borough to borough at short notice difficult to share information and provide services
- Missing from Education contributing to late identification of communication issues for Carl
- Offending behaviour
- Neglect
- Parental Substance Misuse
- Physical ill health
- Contextual Safeguarding
- Victim of an assault
- Missing episodes
- Lack of food in the family home



### 4 Learning

- The importance of consistent workers, giving time to build 'trusted relationships'. (Carl with the Adolescent and YOS worker)
- Working effectively with young people who whilst not gang members associates with gang members and are involved in postcode incidents.
- The importance of school records transferring and children are not 'off-rolled' without a new education placement or the relevant local authority being informed.
- The value of service design to maintain good relationship work with adolescents who may find it hard to engage with services.
- Moving homeless families away from the local authority area where they are settled with schools and other services should be avoided, except where it is for additional protection.
- The impact of Hidden Harm (parental substance misuse) Carl and Max i.e. Neglect.
- The links between Neglect and Contextual Safeguarding.
- The importance of information sharing between Adult social Care and Children's social care to develop a robust family care plan.

### 3 Findings

- In the redesign of services, Croydon Council and partners should build on the positive work already achieved to maintain the relationship-based approach for adolescents throughout the partnership.
- To promote a more collaborative approach when working with homeless families, Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships should ensure that their guidance, best practice, and training around multi agency safeguarding meetings involves relevant local Housing services. To promote and support best practice between the Local Authority Housing Services, local larger scale independent housing providers and Children's Social Care, Croydon Safeguarding Children Partnerships should review relevant protocols to ensure effective joint working.
- Croydon Children Partnerships should seek assurance through audit (or other Quality Assurance means) that current approaches to assessment routinely consider and take sufficient account of a family's longer term history and any issues arising from neurodiversity, particularly where they are long gaps in children's education.
- Croydon Children Partnerships should review their current practice and guidance in relation to expectations for accessing historical information. If necessary, both Partnerships should develop clear guidance about how practitioners will be supported to carry this out and in what circumstances it is necessary.

### 5 Achieving Change

- Reflect on the findings and discuss the implications for your practice/team.
- Outline steps you/team will take going forward.

The full SPR Report can be downloaded at:  
[www.croydonlscb.org.uk](http://www.croydonlscb.org.uk)