

Today, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2016, sees the publication of the Serious Case Review (SCR) report for 'AX' which involved the death of a 17 year old male who was stabbed following an altercation with three other young men at the end of 2013. AX was living in Enfield at the time of his death and was known to Enfield Youth Offending Service and so Enfield Safeguarding Children Board have undertaken the review and commissioned the report. AX however, spent much of his life in Barnet and was engaged with a number of agencies there and so throughout the process of the review Enfield Safeguarding Children Board worked closely with colleagues from Barnet to ascertain what happened and when and to identify how we can collectively learn from the premature death of this young man.

The events covered by this report took place over two years ago. Agencies have not awaited the completion and publication of this review before tackling the issues arising from these events and many of these recommendations have been identified and addressed already.

The report concludes that the circumstances and timing of AX's death could not have been directly predicted by any of the agencies with which he had been in contact.

However, possible opportunities for changing the outcome or influencing elements in this and future cases have been explored thoroughly. A number of findings have been identified and listed toward the end of the report. Some of these findings are listed below;

- AX was a highly intelligent and shrewd young man who applied his abilities to minimising the intrusiveness of authorities in his life and to securing his goal of financial success based on enterprise mainly around illegal substances and activities.
- The origins of AX's attraction to an irregular lifestyle rooted in street life and criminal activities can be traced from his unsettled childhood.
- The most likely opportunity for successful diversionary work with AX was around the transition between primary and secondary schools: once he was established in School 3, he was adamant in his pursuit of a street-based lifestyle and had a steady income from his trading activities including the supply of cannabis.
- AX's social intelligence and his ability to manipulate professionals and engineer outcomes were frequently underestimated.
- Although AX was frequently stopped / arrested by Police and suspected of involvement in numerous offences, latterly often involving knife crime, there was rarely sufficient evidence to pursue charges.
- Over the last two years of AX's life, partnership agencies were generally responding to discrete episodes of anti-social behaviour or individual crises and not fully recognising the patterns and trajectory of AX's increasingly dangerous lifestyle.

The report helpfully identifies a number of actions that have already been undertaken in both Enfield and Barnet agencies in response to this report and its findings. These include;

- In Barnet there is a new protocol to ensure that where a young person is undergoing assessment by Housing, and they have recently been completed a supervision order, YOT will participate in joint assessment where to share information and assist in development of full understanding of young person's needs and circumstances.
- Attendance Centres : For failures to attend on short referral orders there is now no Compliance Panel stage required now so a young person's return to court for breach of order can be expedited
- Court officers now routinely record who attends court with a young person
- A comprehensive audit has been undertaken of Enfield YOU cases to ensure enforcement of Court Orders is being followed

There are a number of recommendations included at the end of the report. The ESCB is assured that much has already been done to address them and is committed to continuing to monitor and review their implementation. The recommendations are complemented by more detailed, agency-specific recommendations, identified during the process of the review which have been incorporated into detailed action plans. There are some wider recommendations, aimed at influencing factors which draw young men to street violence and criminal behaviour, which will be taken to the London LSCB chairs network for further consideration.

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**Contact:**

***For all general queries about the Overview Report and the SCR process***

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