

# 7 minute briefing: Summary of findings from CSPR Child A December 2020



**GREENWICH**  
**Safeguarding**  
**Children**  
PARTNERSHIP

## Background

Child A was a 15 year old boy of Black Caribbean ethnicity, resident in Greenwich with his mother and siblings. Child A was known to a number of services in Greenwich and neighbouring boroughs. The family had frequent moves and spent a number of years living in Croydon and Bromley. He had an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) owing to having moderate learning difficulties. At the time of this death he was allocated within Children's Social Care (CSC) in Greenwich. This was owing to concerns about his behaviour and risks associated with being gang affiliated.

## What happened?

Child A was fatally stabbed in September 2019 in the LB of Newham after responding to a message on social media to meet some friends.

Child A was discussed at GRASP, a safety plan made and a referral to the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). Specialist young people's service, St Giles, started work with the family and he spoke of having debts with drug dealers, but had some interest in engaging.

In the weeks before he was fatally stabbed, he was found by police holding 6 bags of class A drugs in his mouth and stated in interview he would incur a debt for losing the drugs.

## National Issues for Action:

Protocol to be agreed for comprehensive & quality information sharing/service delivery when families move frequently between boroughs.

Full report:

<https://www.greenwichsafeguardingchildren.org.uk/learning-from-practice/published-reviews/>

## Findings

There were early indications that he was involved in criminal exploitation (Age 12), however, the support lost focus on this.

Information sharing between agencies was not good enough at times and meant robust safeguarding assessments were not carried out.

Services were slow to respond in the weeks prior to Child A's death, when significant events escalated.

## Actions

- Additional CP category for Exploitation Risk created to improve multi-agency awareness and response.
- GSCP training programme to be reviewed and updated to cover key learning. – Further 1-page briefings/webinars/webcasts.
- Policy development when there is CCE, clarity about NRM impact.

## Key learning for RBG

Mirroring other similar reports that young black boys of African/Caribbean heritage are more at risk of being susceptible to criminal exploitation.

They are also over represented in school exclusions and the criminal justice system. This highlights the gender and ethnicity structural inequalities to be addressed.

Housing services (in Bromley) did not participate in multi-agency meetings and could have shared valuable information.

Frequent moves and the transitions between boroughs, lead to limited meaningful access to services/support & his schooling was problematic. Croydon did not recognise him as vulnerable (and so was not prioritised); Robust process needed to prevent this happening in RBG.

## Recommendations

All agencies require an understanding of criminal exploitation to promote more effective early intervention. Early signs of Criminal exploitation were not explored.

Clear use of statutory frameworks and strategy meetings when there has been an incident of significant harm. A Multi agency strategy meeting did not take place following an incident where Child A had drugs in his mouth.

Use of and impact of NRM to be fully understood by staff as it had no impact on this case.