7 minute briefing

Safeguarding ENFIELD

What was the Thematic SAR about?

This review examined five adults who died prematurely. Across the cases there were common themes:

- A history of homelessness or insecure accommodation;
- substance misuse;
- mental distress;
- self-neglect;
- poor physical health;
- repeated engagement and disengagement from services.

Many experienced what the review describes as multiple exclusion homelessness – this is where there are multiple disadvantages at play which may have led to homelessness.

Who is the Lead Practitioner? Who holds the whole story?

Another key point that the review highlights is about identifying a lead practitioner in complex cases.

The lead practitioner is not suddenly responsible for every aspect of the case but they should have an overview of the information and be a point of contact for others. This keeps the multi-disciplinary risk management plan on track and ensures that persistent approach.

Recognising Patterns

The review found repeated examples of services responding to individual incidents without recognising wider patterns.

People repeatedly:

attended hospital;
self-discharged;
disengaged from services;
experienced rough sleeping;
returned to services in crisis.

The question is not:

"What is happening today?"

but

"What keeps happening and why?"



A multi-disciplinary approach is key.

The review repeatedly identifies missed opportunities to bring professionals together to compare information, assess risk and develop co-ordinated plans. Where risk is high and multiple agencies are involved **nobody should be working in isolation.**

The review recommends clearer use of multi-agency risk management arrangements – do you know how and when to convene a multi-disciplinary meeting?

What Happened to You?

The review also highlighted the need to understand the wider context and history around why an adult might struggle to engage with (or trust) services.

Trauma informed practice – the understanding that trauma (such as childhood abuse and neglect, grief or mental ill health will change how an adult cares for themselves, relates to services and acts in different situations) – is a really important factor here.

Executive Capacity Matters.

Across the review there were concerns regarding:

- inconsistent capacity assessments;
- assumptions about choice;
- adults repeatedly making decisions that appeared inconsistent with their safety and wellbeing.
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The review specifically highlights the need to consider: **Can the person actually use and act on the key information in everyday life?**

Executive functioning and executive capacity are particularly important in self-neglect cases.

'Did Not Attend' versus was not supported to attend…

Non-engagement is often a reason that professionals close their involvement. It's important however to be curious about **why** someone is not engaging:

– Are there practical barriers we could support with?

- What is the adult's relationship like with professionals?
- Is this part of a pattern? Are other professionals experiencing the same thing?
- What are the risks of non-engagement and does the adult understand them?

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ENFIELD Council