



**7 Learning point:** Relational practice with individual young people needs to be addressed strategically. This is to ensure effective joint working strategically and operationally to address information sharing; shared service pathways; shared approach to engagement and interventions; shared priorities at different levels of need and risk. Some of this is in place and is working well but there appear to be further improvements needed to ensure maximum impact.

**6 Learning point:** It is important that practitioners understand the history, the trauma, of the past risks and current vulnerabilities in the parent's life which contributes to their style of parenting. Curiosity is required regarding where observed behaviours come from. These should be discussed openly with the parent and reflected upon overtly as to how these factors might contribute to their parenting style.

### 5 Parental mental health

Practitioners observed closely the nature of the relationship between 'Andre' and his mother. Practitioners saw the parent's mood and presentation and how it influenced Andre despite there not being understanding on mother's diagnosis. A focus from practitioners on visits and engagement with mother may have fallen short of gripping the more complex and harmful aspects of the inconsistency or unpredictability of a parent in meeting a child's emotional needs.

### 1 Who is 'Andre'?

'Andre' passed away shortly after completing school. The circumstance around his passing remains confidential whilst legal procedures are completed.

'Andre' was of mixed heritage, from two diverse ethnic backgrounds. 'Andre' was involved with several different professionals who all reported fondly of him. Professionals described him as "a pleasure to work with", "polite and never rude" and a "real family man". It is important to highlight how he was described because it illustrates the level of respect within their relationships.

### 2 Learning Point: knowledge and integrity within practice

A recent HMIP report noted that "the knowledge and integrity of the worker and the relationships they form with black and mixed heritage boys are the most important factors in supporting and promoting meaningful and effective engagement."

Further reading can be found here [HMIP: The experiences of black and mixed heritage boys in the Youth Justice system](#)

### 3 Culture and Diversity

The practitioners were curious about 'Andre's' lived experience.

Recognised the different forms of racism that 'Andre' experienced including that from his primary caregiver.

Trauma- informed practice acknowledging difficult issues especially around structural and individual racism and the poor emotional health that would be present.

Understanding of purposelessness being at the forefront of his poor mental health.

Celebrating things important to Andre – clothes, music.

Acknowledging friendships as positive.

Allowing 'Andre' to reflect and explore his behaviour and culture.

Exploring the 'pull factors' of the gang and possible risks through scenario-based work.

**4 Learning Point:** Practitioners displayed many enabling factors to support good quality practice – values, the context of practice, leadership, communication, clarity of purpose and approach, experience, skills and personal attributes.

